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Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

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@100

The Collection

An overview of the hundred Who's in Town seminars conducted at Amsterdam University College.

Speakers:	Excellent and diverse experts from around the globe
Date:	6 November 2009 - 16 January 2014
Venue:	Amsterdam University College
Convenors:	AUC students and faculty

The Who's in Town @ 100

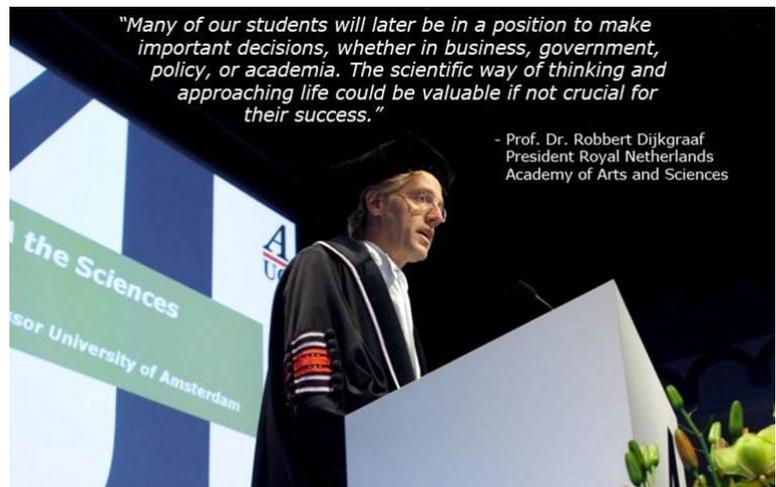
The Collection

On a regular basis AUC hosts small-scale seminars delivered by guest speakers "who are in town" for presentations and debates with members of the academic community. The seminars are organised with AUC students, as part of their extra-curricular activities. They aim to connect debates in science and society, focusing on "the Big Questions".

The Who's in Town lectures quickly became successful and in four years' time academics and experts from around the world presented a hundred lectures on a broad variety of topics. A complete overview of all seminars is now brought together in this **Who's in Town @ 100 Collection**.

The collection was completed with the *Who's in Town @ 100* lecture presented by Robbert Dijkgraaf, Leon Levy Professor and Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and Distinguished University professor at the University of Amsterdam. Robbert Dijkgraaf was co-founder of AUC and inspired the Who's in Town series, drawing on his experience with the freshman seminars held at the residential colleges of Princeton University.

At the occasion of the 100th Who's in Town seminar Robbert Dijkgraaf returned to AUC to present a celebratory lecture on the Big Questions in Science and Society. He focused in particular on questions that AUC students, as the next generation of researchers and decision makers, will need to address. Is our universe part of a multiverse? Can we design nature at will, and if so, should we do so? How should science interface with policy? And: do we know what we don't know?



We thank all speakers, students, teachers, alumni, and AUC partners for their initiatives which made this series so successful!

Building on this already great tradition AUC will continue to organize Who's in Town seminars and to invite experts and academics from all over the world. For now we hope you will enjoy this overview of an excellent and diverse collection of lectures, on topics ranging from street art and cinematography to nanotechnology, from neurosciences to the digital future, from rhetoric to big data, from the economic crisis to the future of the UN, and from dark matter to peace, ethics and moral dilemmas.

Prof. dr. Marijk van der Wende
Dean of Amsterdam University College



Some of the remarkable Who's in Town speakers: Michael Sandel, Coen Teulings, Johan Witteveen, Randy Berry, Jan Pronk, Francine Houben, Elies van Sliedrecht, Léon Tops, and Sola Abulu. And AUC students as convenors: Karlijn Hooyer, Louis Klamroth, Roelant Stegmann, Thiandi Grooff, Ruben Slot, and Franziska Golenhofen.



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Who's in Town

Who's in Town @ 100 with Robbert Dijkgraaf *on Big Questions in Science and Society*

Robbert Dijkgraaf, Leon Levy Professor and Director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and University Professor at the UvA, was co-founder of AUC and inspired the Who's in Town series, drawing on his experience at Princeton University.

At the occasion of the 100th Who's in Town seminar he will return to AUC to present a celebratory lecture on the Big Questions in Science and Society. Robbert Dijkgraaf will focus in particular on questions that AUC students, as the next generation of researchers and decision makers, will need to address. Is our universe part of a multiverse? Can we design nature at will, and if so, should we do so? How should science interface with policy? And: do we know what we don't know?

To attend Robbert Dijkgraaf's lecture on these and other Big Questions in Science and Society please register.

Speaker: Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf

Date & Time: Thursday 16 January 2014, from 13.00-14.30

Venue: Common Room
Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Dico van Dissel, Dimitri Perdikoulis, Line van den Berg,
Margriet van der Heijden

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Monday, 9 December 2013: Shell and Nigeria

Leon Tops and Sola Abulu will discuss the various onshore and offshore activities of Shell in Nigeria (oil, lng and domestic gas) and the company's contribution to the economy of Nigeria.

They will also discuss challenges with respect to e.g. oil spills, remediation and oil theft, and they will talk about the report in which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assessed the impacts of oil contamination in Ogoniland. Finally, they will also discuss education and community health projects as well as other Shell initiatives in Nigeria.

Speaker: Léon Tops and Sola Abulu from
Shell International

Date & Time: Monday, 9 December 2013; 18.00-20.00

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Margriet van der Heijden

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Tuesday, 3 December 2013: Masculinity, Silence, the Body: Valhalla Rising (2009) and Drive (2011)

Nicolas Winding Refn's recent work exemplifies what has been called a 'nostalgic revival of masculinity'. In this talk we discuss whether these films offer us anything beyond a glorification of traditional modes of masculinity, particularly in relation to the white action body. Drawing on recent work on women's silence in Lynne Ramsay's *Morvern Callar*, we explore the richness of silences offered to us in Winding Refn's films and how this silence can be read in relation to masculinity.

Speaker: Dr. Sarah Artt

Date & Time: Tuesday, 3 December 2013, from 18:00-20:00

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Merian Area (3rd floor)

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Thursday 28 November 2013: Do our brains make us what we are?

The idea that the brain determines what we are is widely accepted today. Patricia Churchland captures the public mood well when she writes your values are what they are because your brain is what it is (Churchland 2013: 105). In his lecture, Dr. Julian Kiverstein, philosopher at the University of Amsterdam, will focus on a potentially unsettling finding of the neurophilosopher Thomas Metzinger. According to Metzinger investigation of the brain correlates of consciousness shows that no one was or ever had a self. Metzinger allows for the experience of being someone, but argues that this experience is an illusion generated by complex processes inside our brains. Dr. Kiverstein will make two claims: first that the experience of being someone is not an illusion. Second that we can give a scientific explanation of this experience, but only if we also take into account the brain's embodiment and embeddedness in the world.'

Speaker: Dr. Julian Kiverstein

Date & Time: Thursday 28 November 2013, from 18.00

Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Coco Veldhuijsen & Tycho Tax

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Friday 22 November 2013: The Rule of Law and the European Union

The rule of law is one of the underlying principles of the legal system of every modern state. It is also embodied in the EU founding Treaties as one of the main values of the European integration. Recently a new wave of discussion has been initiated on how to interpret the rule of law principle in the EU framework, and how to ensure that it is properly safeguarded. This lecture will address the debate about the rule of law principle in the EU framework. Prof. dr. Artur Nowak-Far is the Undersecretary of State for the Polish Government and an active contributor to the debate.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Artur Nowak-Far

Date & Time: Thursday 22 November 2013, from 14.00-15.00

Venue: Room 1.02, Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Emma Cohen de Lara

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Wednesday 20 November 2013: Ethics of International Cooperation

What have international development efforts accomplished to date? What were the values, principles and rules of world institutions? How will international aid and cooperation evolve in the future, and what are the challenges ahead?

Prof. Jan Pronk will address these and other questions from a historical perspective, and discuss new international cooperation values and policies within the framework of the global system. What goes on in the brain in that case? Could neuroeconomics enable us to get a better insight in why bankers trusted each other less during the financial crisis? And, could this hormone perhaps also play a role in the (lack of) trust between strangers?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Jan Pronk

Date & Time: Thursday 7 November 2013, from 18.00-20.00

Venue: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium
Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Saskia Baas

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Thursday 7 November 2013: Do Economists Need Brains?

Neuroeconomics is the youngest branch on the tree of economic science. In its research neuroscientific methods and techniques, like brain scans, are used to better understand, predict, and regulate economic decisions.

For example, an intriguing finding is that oxytocin – a hormone involved in lactation – enhances people's trust in strangers. After intranasal administration in an experiment participants transferred more money to an unknown other participant for an investment!

What goes on in the brain in that case? Could neuroeconomics enable us to get a better insight in why bankers trusted each other less during the financial crisis? And, could this hormone perhaps also play a role in the (lack of) trust between strangers?

On Thursday November 7 prof. dr. Frans van Winden - professor of economics at the Amsterdam School of Economics, PI at the Cognitive Science Center Amsterdam, and founding-director of CREED (Center for Research in Experimental Economics and political Decision making) - will host a Who's in Town Lecture about the sense and nonsense of neuroeconomics.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Frans van Winden

Date & Time: Thursday 7 November 2013, from 18.00-20.00

Venue: Room: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium
Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Carl Druml and Olivier Bus

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Tuesday 29 October 2013: Political Michelangelo

There was probably no Renaissance artist who was more political than Michelangelo. Michelangelo not only served some of the most powerful men and women on the Italian peninsula, he himself was also involved in the politics of his native city of Florence. But somehow his art has always resisted political interpretation. Today, the otherworldly qualities of his paintings and sculptures are more easily associated with artistic freedom and imagination rather than with the stringent demands associated with Renaissance popes and princes. This lecture will reintroduce the political in Michelangelo's work.

In conjunction with the lecture, there will be an exclusive excursion to the special collections of Teylers Museum, Haarlem, on Wednesday 30 October. Please sign up by sending an email to m.schraven@auc.nl, as space is limited to 12 persons. See Blackboard for more information.

Speaker: Joost Keizer, assistant professor in history of art at Yale University

Date & Time: Tuesday 29 October 2013, from 18.00-19.30

Venue: Room: T.B.A

Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Minou Schraven

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Thursday, 10 October 2013: What makes us musical animals?

Can birdsong, the song structure of humpback whales, a Thai elephant orchestra, or the interlocking duets of Gibbons be considered music? On Thursday 10 October prof. dr. Henkjan Honing (UvA) will try to answer this question.

It is important to separate the notions of 'music' and 'musicality', he claims. Musicality can be defined as a natural, spontaneously developing trait based on and constrained by our cognitive and biological system. Music can be defined as a social and cultural construct based on that very musicality.

However, it is a challenge to demarcate precisely what makes up 'musicality'. What are the cognitive mechanisms that are essential to perceive, make and appreciate music? These fundamental mechanisms need to be identified, before one can study their evolution. In other words: the study of the evolution of music cognition begins with a characterization of the basic mechanisms that make up musicality.

Speaker: Prof. dr. Henkjan Honing

Venue: Room 1.01ab

Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Cas Smulders

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Macro-economics revisited with Coen Teulings & Johan Witteveen

How will the current economic crisis evolve in the future? Where did it come from in the first place? And how will it affect us? The speakers will address the current financial crisis from a historical and macro-economic perspective. They will discuss Europe and the Dutch economic situation in the broader global context, including the role of agents such as the IMF. Implications of the crisis for macro-economic models and concepts will be explored.

Speakers: Dr. Johan Witteveen
Former Dutch minister of finance
Former director of the IMF

Prof. dr. Coen Teulings
Professor of economics at the UvA
Former Director of CPB

Date & Time: Thursday 27 June 2013, from 18.00-20.00
Venue: Common Room, Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Ruben Slot & Franziska Golenhofen, AUC students

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Francine Houben: Dutch Mountains

Francine Houben directs her Mecanoo team with the ambition to design buildings with a strong respect for context; physically, historically and environmentally. In this lecture, she will present her design philosophy for the Amsterdam Architecture Prize 2013-winning project Amsterdam University College. This critically-acclaimed project is an inspiring home for the community of international students and their professors that reflects the sculptural and material language of its context. Francine will also take you along her increasingly international portfolio which features such notable projects as La Llotja Theatre and Congress Centre in Lleida, Spain (2010) and the soon to be opened Library of Birmingham, integrated with the REP Theatre in the UK (2013). Her projects in the Far East include Wei Wu Ying Centre for the Arts, Kaohsiung in Taiwan and Whistling Rock golfclub, Chuncheon in South Korea.

Speaker: Francine Houben
Architect/creative director Mecanoo Architecten

Date & Time: Tuesday 25 June 2013, from 18.00-20.00
Venue: Common Room, Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Nicole de Groot, AUC student



mecanoo
architecten

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Brain Train

What is it with the brain these days? Neuroscience seems to be everywhere. It inspires computational scientists to build innovative neural networks. It alters ideas about the behavior of adolescents. It transforms the perspective of cinematographers. It changes the way we diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders, and in the future, insights from neuroscience may even be used to change the brain itself.

This spring five top researchers will host a special series of Who's in Town Lectures:

Thursday 11 April: Dr. Sander Bothe on how neural networks may give insight into the working of the brain and vice versa.

Thursday 25 April: Prof. Dr. Patricia Pisters on our relationship with the brain: has contemporary culture become a neuroculture?

Tuesday 7 May: Prof. Dr. René Kahn on the relevance of neuroscience for clinical psychiatry.

Monday 13 May: Dr. Bennie Mols on the brain of future.

Thursday 23 May: Drs. Barbara Braams on the rewards circuits in the adolescent brain.

All lectures start at 18:00 and will be held in the Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium (1.02)



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UC *Brain Train*

Thursday 23 May 2013:
The adolescent brain: insights
from neuroimaging research

Adolescence is a time of major social-cognitive and affective change. On Thursday 23 May, drs. Braams, who works at the unit of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the Institute of Psychology at Leiden University, will give a presentation about brain development in adolescence, with a focus on functional and structural brain research. Behaviorally, one of the changes observed in adolescence is an increase in risk-taking behavior, which could be explained by an overactive reward system. The ventral striatum, previously found to be important for neural responses to rewards, is thought to develop earlier than fronto-parietal brain regions, which are responsible for executive functions such as inhibition. Changes in the social-cognitive domain include a shift from focus on parents, to peers. Specifically, peer relations become more important.

Speaker: Drs. Barbara Braams
Institute of Psychology, Leiden University

Date & Time: Thursday 23 May 2013, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium (1.02)
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Eva Elvelin and Samantha van Urk



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Thursday 16 May 2013: Silencing the voice of HIV stigma

While the focus of the discussion will be on HIV the issue of stigma in health and health research is broadly relevant to students with an interdisciplinary training such as AUC. Individuals who are diagnosed are often stigmatized by their disease status, there the topic of stigma important. In relation to liberal arts studies, a broad based background integrating qualitative research methods from the social sciences together with knowledge from biological and health sciences is vital.

Prof Greeff will start with giving an overview of her research related to the impact of HIV and stigma and facing the challenge. Then she and Mrs. Molaudzi will present together to illustrate the impact of HIV stigma. The presentation will be followed up with time for debate, discussion and questions.

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Minrie Greeff; North-West University, South Africa

Mrs. Poncho Molaudzi; researcher

Date & Time: Thursday 16 May 2013, from 17.30 -18.30

Venue: Merian Area

Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Dr. Colleen Doak & Pauline van Schaik

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Wednesday, 15 May 2013: Maids in Saudi Arabia – in fact and in fiction

Antoinette Vlieger (UvA) has written both a PhD-thesis and a novel about domestic workers in Saudi Arabia. These workers experience extreme difficulties: long working hours, no days off, being grounded, non-payment and different forms of abuse. Interestingly, Antoinette Vlieger has explored this theme in both academic and literary writing, trying to answer to the question why. Contrary to the expectation of many, Islam has nothing to do with it. The problem is that the country is a bit of an anarchy; an oil financed anarchy that has little in common with the rule of law.

Speaker: Dr. Antoinette Vlieger (UvA)
Date & Time: Wednesday, 15 May 2013, 15.00 - 16.30
Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Room 1.01 a + b
Convenors: Olaf Tans

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UC *Brain Train*

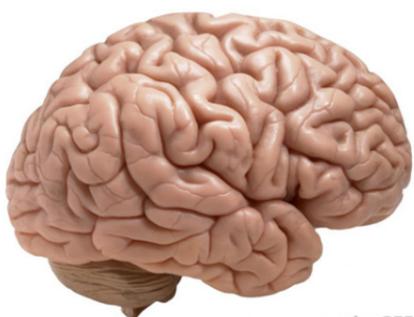
Monday 13 May 2013:
The brain of the future

Earlier this year, scientists created direct brain-to-brain communication (via the Internet) between two rats, each with a chip implanted in its brain. The same researchers also extended the ordinary five senses of the rat with a sixth sense: seeing infrared light. In other words: the brain seems to be so flexible that technology can even extend its natural capabilities. On Monday 13 May Dr. Bennie Mols will discuss recent developments in brain-machine interfaces (e.g. letting the brain control an external device like an exoskeleton), in brain simulation (e.g. modeling the human brain on a supercomputer) and in the electronic brain (e.g. artificial intelligence that takes over decision making, like in autonomous cars). He will also discuss the ethics of these developments: Do we want to do and create what we are technologically capable of?

Bennie Mols (1969) studied physics and philosophy, has a Ph.D. in physics and is a science journalist and science writer. He works for printed media, radio and tv, and he is the author of the book *Turings Tango* (2012, in Dutch) about artificial intelligence.

See also: <http://benniemols.blogspot.nl>

Speaker: Dr. Bennie Mols
Date & Time: Monday 13 May 2013, 18.00 - 20.00
Venue: Merian Area
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Convenors: Susan Martinez and Luuk van Helvert



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Wednesday 8 May 2013: Lecture and Q&A with Farah Karimi

Farah Karimi came to Europe as political refugee from Iran in 1983. In the Netherlands she studied Policy and Governance of International Organizations, and has been a member for the Green Left party (Groen-Links) in the Dutch Parliament for more than eight years, where she focused on development co-operation, foreign affairs, defense and European affairs. In 2007 Farah Karimi was involved in the capacity building of the Afghan parliament, as a consultant for the UN organization UNDP. She is one of the founders of Bridging the Gulf, a foundation for human security in the Middle East.

Since February 2008 Farah Karimi is the Executive Director of Oxfam Novib and member of the Oxfam International Board. In her lecture, Karimi will introduce a recent campaign with partners and allies in 45 countries to enhance food security in conflict areas ("Grow"). As former chair of the SHO (Samenwerkende Hulp Organisaties), a coalition of 10 Dutch NGO's working together on Humanitarian Aid Karimi will also address the critiques on civil society and the impact of the political debate in the Netherlands on Oxfam Novib's work.

Speaker: Farah Karimi
Executive Director of Oxfam Novib

Moderator: Dr. Hilla Dayan

Date & Time: Wednesday 8 May 2013, from 18:00-20:00

Venue: Common Room
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

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UC *Brain Train*

Tuesday 7 May 2013:
Why psychiatric illnesses are
diseases of the brain

The brain has long been ignored in psychiatry. The reason is that it was almost impossible to study this organ in living humans. However, since the 1980s we can study the brain using neuroimaging techniques. We have discovered that psychiatric illness, abnormal behavior, thoughts and emotions are related to specific changes in the brain. On Tuesday 7 May prof. dr. René Kahn, chair of the division neuroscience at Utrecht Medical Center, professor of psychiatry at Utrecht University and author of various books on neuroscience and the brain, will provide an historical overview and present the latest data in the field of neuroimaging in psychiatry.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Rene Kahn
Utrecht Medical Center and author of various well-known books on psychiatry and the brain

Date & Time: Tuesday 7 May 2013, 18:00 - 20:00
Venue: Merian Area
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Nienke van Staveren, Karl Gerritse, Floor Cuijpers, and Candela Donantueno



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UC *Brain Train*

Thursday 25 April 2013: The Neuro-Image: Deleuze, Brain and Cinema in the Digital Age

Cinema has a special relationship to the brain. Film does not solely put the image in motion; it also puts thought in motion. As philosopher Gilles Deleuze argued in the 1980s, cinema has the power to create new brain circuits. On 25 April prof. dr. Patricia Pisters will host a Who's in Town Lecture to investigate the relationship between film, thought and brain and how it has changed over the course of the twentieth century. She will argue that we can currently speak of cinema as 'neuro-images' that have developed in parallel with new technologies in the digital age and new findings in neuroscience.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Patricia Pisters
Professor of Media Culture and Film Studies
Chair of the department of Media Studies
University of Amsterdam

Date & Time: Thursday 25 April 2013, 18:00 - 20:00

Venue: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium (1.02)
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Dr. Margriet van der Heijden



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Wednesday 24 April 2013: Supercomputing and Big Data in service of Science, Innova- tion and sustainability

Anwar Osseyran, MD of the Dutch National Supercomputer Center SURFsara will introduce the Cyber-world of supercomputers and Big Data. Most scientific, industrial, economic and social challenges in this 21st century are multidisciplinary and require use of High Performance Computing (HPC), Cloud and Big Data technologies. Not only air planes and human brains are simulated with supercomputers but also car tires and even diapers are being developed with HPC. Big Data introduced even a fourth paradigm where quantity beats quality and correlation supersedes causation. Big Data is used to analyse the past and predict the future. Cloud computing has lowered the threshold of the use of HPC and Big data but there is a dark side to all of this: how are we going to ensure our cyber-security and protect our privacy?

Speaker: Dr.Ir. A. Osseyran
Managing Director SURFsara BV.

Date & Time: Wednesday 24 April 2013, from 18:00-19:30
Venue: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium (1.02)
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenor: Joost van Amersfoort

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Thursday 18 April 2013: Images Without Borders: Violence, Visuality, and Land- scape in Postwar Ambon, Indonesia

This lecture explores the thematization of the visual and expansion of its terrain exemplified by the gigantic hijacked billboards with Jesus faces and the painted murals with Christian themes which arose during the religiously inflected war in Ambon and in its aftermath (1999-2002) on city sidewalks and along public thoroughfares. Special attention will be paid to the diversity of Christian landscapes against which Christ is profiled as imaginary horizons of future Christian habitation.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Patricia Spyer
Leiden University, FSW
Institute of Cultural Anthropology/Development
Sociology

Date & Time: Thursday 18 April 2013, from 18.00-20.00
Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium(1.02)

Convenor: Dr. Rafael Sanchez

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Wednesday 17 April 2013: Prosecutions for atrocity crimes. Who is criminally responsible and can inter- national criminal justice se- cure peace?

Since WWI there has been talk of setting up an international criminal justice system to prevent atrocities such as crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. In 2002, a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) was established to try those at the highest echelons in government and the military for what can be called 'atrocity crimes'. Can the ICC play a role in preventing mass atrocities and should certain Heads of State and senior government officials fear prosecution before this Court?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Elies van Sliedregt
Professor Criminal Law VU University Amsterdam

Date & Time: Wednesday 17 April 2013; 14.00 -16.00
Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University
College

Convenors: Dr. Louise Vigeant

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Friday 12 April 2013: Session with Michael Sandel

Michael Sandel published a number of books, among which *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice* (1998), which offers a critique of Rawls' liberalism, *The Case against Perfection: Ethics in the Age of Genetic Engineering* (2007), *Justice: what's the Right Thing to Do?* (2009) and, recently, *What Money Can't Buy: the Moral Limits of Markets* (2012). Michael Sandel looks forward to meeting with members of the Dutch academic community and with AUC-students for a discussion of his recent book, *What Money Can't Buy*. He is also happy to respond to questions about any other aspects of his work. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Sandel in an informal setting, engage in a dialogue with him, and ask him the questions about his work that you've always wanted to ask.

Note: This Who's in Town is has an attendance list due to the limited number of seats. Please send an email to m.f.willemsen@auc.nl if you want to attend. The remaining seats will be distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Sandel
Date & Time: Friday 12 April 2013, from 13:30-14:30
Venue: Common Room
Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara & Dr. Mariëtte Willemesen

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UC *Brain Train*

Thursday 11 April 2013: Deep and Dynamic Models of the Brain: A Third Attempt

How does the brain work? How does the processing of sensory inputs result in actions being generated? On Thursday, 11 April, Dr. Sander Bohte of the Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), the national research institute for mathematics and computer science in the Netherlands, will host a Who's in Town Lecture about a number of recent breakthroughs in modeling the computations that the brain carries out: one of the central questions studied in Artificial Intelligence, Neuroscience and Psychology.

The Lecture will touch upon deep learning, artificial spiking neural networks, and the Bayesian brain hypothesis – the general notion of how the brain computes in situations of uncertainty. Together, the advances in these fields have led to a renewed interest in neural networks as a framework for Artificial Intelligence – a third wave in neuro-computational research.

Speaker: Dr. Sander Bohte
Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica (CWI), the national research institute for mathematics and computer science in the Netherlands

Date & Time: Thursday 11 April 2013, 18:00 - 20:00
Venue: Amsterdam University College



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Monday 25 March 2013: Transatlantic Revolutionary Filmmaking and the Right to Culture: Cinematic Exchanges in 1960s Cuba

Over the long 1960s, filmmakers sought out new forms of expression to represent and advance the radical social changes of the era. According to dominant film histories of this period, major innovations began in France (or, more generally, Europe) and only later filtered out to the "periphery." This narrative, however, elides the rich networks of transnational (and particularly transatlantic) exchange that characterized the era, and obscures some of the major concerns of its filmmakers, many of which continue to resonate today. This talk will focus on encounters between two European and two Cuban filmmakers and cultural figures (Agnès Varda, Juan Goytisolo, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Sara Gómez) and their reflections on the "right to culture," from verbal and visual literacy campaigns to debates over the precise nature of "cultural capital."

Speaker: Dr. Susan Martin Marquez,
Graduate and Undergraduate Full Professor, Rutgers
University.

Date & Time: Monday 25 March 2013, from 18.00-20.00

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Merian Area

Convenor: Dr. Christina Buckley

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Thursday 21 March 2013: Asylum policies in The Netherlands: The case of De Vlucht- kerk

How to approach questions of asylum, citizenship and undocumented migration? Recently, these issues have received greater attention in Dutch discourse. After the eviction of an Amsterdam-based refugee tent camp last November, those undocumented refugees started to organise resistance. Currently residing in an abandoned church, this group has become publicly known as 'De Vluchtkerk' and has been very successful in bringing to the fore inhumane living conditions and general drawbacks of Dutch asylum law. To evoke fundamental policy changes, De Vluchtkerk in cooperation with various activist groups plans a large scale demonstration in Amsterdam on 23 March.

In light of these current developments, two members of De Vluchtkerk, Prof. Nanda Oudejans and Jo van der Spek will discuss Dutch asylum policies, the potential change and the role of grass-roots activism such as De Vluchtkerk.

Speakers: Nanda Oudejans, Mamdou Diallo and Ahmed Aden

Moderator: Jan van der Spek

Date & Time: Thursday 21 March 2013, from 18.00-19.30

Venue: Merian Area

Amsterdam University College

Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam

Convenors: Eva Degler & Sophie Kloos

A

Volunteer Week

Amsterdam university college

UC

Friday 8 March 2013: Defending Ocean Life: A New Wave of Action

The fishing industry is by far the largest animal industry in the world, killing more animals than all other industries - combined. Industrial fishing activities are damaging ecosystems and pushing species to the brink of extinction. Emerging from some of the more established conservation organisations, a group of people founded a new organisation in 2010 named The Black Fish.

Within a couple of years this initiative has grown into an international marine activism movement, with numerous victories already under its belt. Come to The Black Fish talk to learn about the cruelty created by the industrial fishing industry and creative ways in which The Black Fish are turning the tide.

Speaker: Representative of The Black Fish, Marine Conservation Movement

Date & Time: Friday 8 March 2013, from 12.30-13.45

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Common Room

Convenor: AUCSA Garden Committee

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Wednesday 27 February 2013: Shared responsibility in Inter- national Law

The expansion of action beyond territories is not just a factual matter in the sense that states do exercise more powers abroad. It is a normative matter, in the sense that international law more and more must exercise powers abroad. This leads to a situation in which responsibility for harmful outcomes is shared. The question how and in what form it is shared, is complex. Prof. Dr. Andre Nollkaemper will illustrate his argument by drawing mainly on one field of law: the protection of civilians against mass atrocities in third states. Particularly in this area, we see an unrelenting push on states, whether alone or through international organizations, to exercise powers outside of their territories. This leads to overlapping exercise of powers which raise complex questions of shared responsibility.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Andre Nollkaemper
Professor of Public International Law
Vice-Dean for Research at the Faculty of Law of UvA

Date & Time: Wednesday 27 February 2013, from 14.00-16.00
Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Merian Area

Convenor: Dr. Louise Vigeant

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Wednesday 13 February 2013: Phillip Blond and Radical Con- servatism Putting Political Ideas to Work

Phillip Blond is currently one of the most influential political thinkers in Great Britain whose ideas continue to inspire the conservative government of David Cameron. In his work, Phillip, who has been called a 'red Tory' or 'radical conservative', is critiquing both big government and big business. His ideas, and those developed by his think tank ResPublica, combine a focus on civil society and local initiatives with ideals of social justice, seemingly mixing strands from different ideologies. Who is this 'philosopher-king' of David Cameron? What does it take for a political thinker to make a difference and influence policy? What is the alternative to both big government and big business? And what is Phillip's stance on current issues such as the British position in the EU?

Speaker: Philip Blond
Political thinker and social and economic
commentator
Director of ResPublica

Date & Time: Wednesday 13 February 2013, from 15.15 - 16.30

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Common Room

Convenor: Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara

A

Amsterdam university college

UC

Who's in Town

Monday 11 February 2013: Systems biology: changing disease-care into health-care

The last decades have seen enormous progress in biological sciences. We know our genome and the 100 nm resolution morphology of our entire body. How did this change healthcare? Well, it got very expensive, but did we get really healthier, or do we just better manage our diseases? What is health?

Dr. Ben van Ommen will discuss the science of "systems biology" and use examples to demonstrate how healthcare, including nutrition, lifestyle, and therapy management, should really change by fully implementing systems thinking.

Speaker: Dr. Ben Ommen
Principal Scientist at TNO (the Dutch organisation for Applied Scientific Research)
Director of the TNO systems biology program
Director of NuGO, the Nutrigenomics Organisation.

Date & Time: Monday 11 February 2013, from 18.00-20.00
Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Merian Area

Convenor: Dr. Daan van Schalkwijk

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday, 11 December 2012: How to make outstanding Discoveries

Have you ever wondered how brilliant minds in the past came to their great scientific discoveries? Are these primarily products of the discoverer's society, education, and the local circumstances under which a discovery takes place? Or is genius, or at least a constellation of personal gifts, decisively involved as well?

On 11 December, Dr. Floris Cohen, professor of History of Science at Utrecht University and chairman of the Descartes Center for the History and Philosophy of Science and the humanities, will give a Who's In Town lecture called 'How To Make Outstanding Discoveries: What History Can Teach Us' at AUC. In his lecture, Floris Cohen will discuss the subject in general terms, but the emphasis will be on a range of historical examples. These include the life and the major discoveries of Isaac Newton, further Leonardo da Vinci's ambitions and actual inventions, and the accomplishment of a range of 17th century Jesuit experimentalists.

Speaker: Dr. Floris Cohen
Professor of History of Science Utrecht University
Chairman of the Descartes Center for History and
Philosophy of Science and the humanities

Date & Time: Tuesday, 11 December 2012; 18.00-20.00

Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University College

Convenors: Nathan Potter, Liza Coyer, Dewi Nijman & Paul van Baal

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Monday, 3 December 2012: Dark Matter

In the 1970s, an astronomer called Vera Rubin measured something strange: in several distant galaxies stars were moving faster than predicted.

If the laws of gravity were to hold, matter should be present in the vicinity of these stars, but so far it has been undetectable. Due to its elusive nature, scientists named this mysterious matter: 'dark matter'. It is abundant in our universe; about 23% of the universe consists of dark matter, as opposed to only 4% regular matter.

Dr. Patrick Decowski and Dr. Gianfranco Bertone, both associate professors at the UvA and part of the Gravitation Astroparticle Physics Institute of Amsterdam (GRAPPA), will talk about their work in the field of dark matter. They will talk about ongoing and upcoming experiments, and about the prospects of uncovering the true nature of this elusive matter.

Speaker: Dr. Patrick Decowski and Dr. Gianfranco Bertone
Associate professors the UvA/GRAPPA

Date & Time: Monday, 3 December 2012; 18.00-20.00
Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University College

Convenors: Arno Bargerbos and John Paton

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday, 29 November 2012: Freckle or melanoma?

Skin cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in the western world, specifically affecting more than 2 million Americans annually. Every year there are more new cases of skin cancer than breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer combined. More so, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer over the course of their lifetime. These numbers are unfortunately on the rise, especially in populations with fair skin such as Scandinavia, north-west Europe, and Australia.

Marcel Bekkenk is one of many dermatologists determined to prevent and treat this rising problem. A clinical dermatologist for nearly 30 years, Bekkenk has recently introduced the world's first skin cancer monitoring app in attempt to raise awareness of the disease as well as increase preventative care. The app allows users to monitor and compare questionable skin lesions, in order to decide whether medical attention is needed. Furthermore, Marcel Bekkenk is involved himself with the most novel skin cancer research projects worldwide in order to provide his patients as well as the general population the most updated information on skin cancer. In this lecture he will focus on presenting the most novel skin cancer information, the development and impacts of his skin monitoring app, as well as discussing a patient case study.

Speaker: Marcel Bekkenk, Dermatologist & Developer
Huidmonitor App

Date & Time: Thursday, 29 November 2012; 19.00-20.00

Venue: Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium, Amsterdam University College

Convenors: Olga Blomberg and Kim van der Weijde

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Monday, 19 November 2012: Puzzles from Amsterdam

Science Park is not dedicated to science alone, as Ritmeester will show. It also hosts companies such as Ritmeesters PZZL.com. Located at Science Park PZZL.com designs and programs puzzles for websites, magazines and newspapers, ranging from crossword puzzle to maze.

Since 2000 the interactive puzzles have appeared in the (online) editions of the New York Times, The (London) Times, NRC Handelsblad and in many other media outlets in Europe, North-America, Asia, Australia and Africa. PZZL.com is the only IT company in the world that focuses entirely on puzzles, and in which puzzle designers and programmers work closely together.

How do you negotiate with a company like The New York Times? What about royalties and other peculiarities of doing (on line) business internationally? Ritmeester will address these and other questions and share his experiences as a CEO of a 'small company with big clients'.

Speaker: Peter Ritmeester, Ceo of PZZL.com
Date & Time: Monday, 19 November 2012; 18.00-20.00
Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University
College
Convenors: Dr. Margriet van der Heijden

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday, 1 November 2012: The US Elections

In early November, Americans go to the polls to elect their next President. This presidential election comes at a crucial moment, as America emerges from its deepest economic crisis since the 1930s, with continued high unemployment rates. International financial markets are vastly interconnected and as such, current and future American economic policies have global consequences. The next President will not only have to work to improve the economy and grapple with a host of domestic political issues ranging from health care to energy policy, but also confront a variety of international security challenges from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. With two vastly different visions of the future on offer to the American people, President Obama and Governor Romney are locked in a close race likely to be determined by a relatively small margin.

On 1 November, the American Consul General in Amsterdam, Randy W. Berry, will come to AUC to talk about issues in the current campaign, the functioning of the Electoral College, key "swing state" races, and the balance of power in the Senate and House of Representatives. With the Election Day less than one week ahead, this is a perfect opportunity to gain an insight into American politics.

Speaker: Randy W. Berry , US Consul General to the Netherlands

Date & Time: Thursday, 1 November 2012; 18.00-20.00

Venue: Merian Area, Amsterdam University College

Convenors: Roelant Stegmann and Louis Klamroth

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday 9 October 2012: Energy from the Sun: dealing with the Energy Crisis

In the coming decade, our society will face a giant energy supply problem: 'The Energy Crisis'. Worldwide energy demand is growing rapidly, while at the same time fossil fuels are becoming scarce, pollute the environment, and create political instability through their limited supply. If we would be able to convert only 0.02% of the energy flux from the Sun on Earth to electricity, heat and fuel, our energy problem is solved.

To make power from solar panels competitive with conventional energy technologies, the cost per generated Watt must be reduced by a factor of 2-5. Conventional solar panels convert only 20% of the energy from the sun to electricity so there is still very much to gain.

After a brief history of solar energy, Prof. Polman will discuss the newest developments, including research done in the laboratory at the FOM Institute AMOLF on "light management" for solar cells. They have demonstrated that light can be trapped more efficiently inside the solar cell, potentially increasing its efficiency to up to 70%.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. A. Polman, Director AMOLF

Date & Time: Tuesday 9 October 2012, from 18.00-20.00

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Room 1.02, Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium

Convenor: Dr. Margriet v.d. Heijden, Roelant Stegmann, Gijs Stapel

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 27 September 2012: Towards a cartography of contemporary social bonds

This intervention attempts to discuss the general nature of contemporary social bonds. How might social ties model our contemporary experience of belief, power, knowledge and subjectivity? To what extent are today's institutions (the state, the market, the media, the university and so on) a function of underlying relations capable of being appraised and even mapped-out? Beyond the attempted description of the scenarios inherently tracing our existence, under what conditions might we make possible critical responses to the pressing issues faced by us today? On the basis of philosophical and psychoanalytic notations made accessible for the occasion, Dr. Benjamin Mayer-Foulkes hope to stimulate a discussion which is of equal interest to those concerned by politics, belief, technology, organisations and the psyche.

Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Mayer-Foulkes, Founding director of 17, Institute of Critical Studies, Mexico City.

Date & Time: Thursday 27 September 2012, from 18.00-20.00
Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Room 1.02, Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium

Convenor: Dr. Rafael Sanchez

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday, 25 September 2012: Quest for the Higgs

Mankind's greatest achievements have arisen from the curiosity to understand the physical world around. After Newton's laws of classical mechanics, Einstein's relativity and Maxwell's understanding of the similarities between magnetism and electricity, we are now heading for a revolutionary new adventure: exploring the unknown world of the Higgs boson.

Dr. Ivo van Vulpen, Assistant Professor at the UvA/Nikhef, will introduce this particle that is of fundamental importance for particle physics. After having explained the Standard Model and having given some insights into the quest for the Higgs boson, we will also present the very latest results on the Higgs boson from the experiments at CERN and look into the future of particle physics. Is it really a Higgs? And what comes next?

Speaker:	Dr. Ivo van Vulpen Assistant professor at the UvA / Nikhef
Date & Time:	Tuesday, 25 September 2012, from 18.00-20.00
Venue:	Amsterdam University College Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam Room 1.02, Robbert Dijkgraaf Auditorium
Convenors:	Arno Bargerbos, Line van den Berg and John Paton

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday, 11 September 2012: Can Imagination Save the World?

Our understanding of the concept of imagination may vary dramatically, depending on our backgrounds and/or our chosen disciplines. For some imagination can mean fantasy; others might connect it with empathy. On the 11th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York we may even ask ourselves the question: Can imagination save the world?

As a writer of literary fiction, Kristien Hemmerechts heavily relies on imagination in her work. In May 2012 she was appointed by the VU University Amsterdam to promote their theme for 2012-2013, which – you've guessed it – is 'imagination'. She would like to share her thoughts with you on this subject, and invites you to share yours with her.

Speaker: Kristien Hemmerechts

Date & Time: Tuesday, 11 September 2012, from 18:00-20:00

Venue: Amsterdam University College
Science Park 113, 1098 XG Amsterdam
Darwin Area (3rd floor)

Convenor: Dr. Marco de Waard

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 26 April: Managing Natural Disasters with Geospatial Information: the Christchurch earth quake, 2010-11

Between 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011, the region of Canterbury, New Zealand, was hit by a series of devastating earth quakes. The lecture evaluates the crucial difference that geospatial information made to the relief and recovery efforts and the important changes that were made to the Spatial Data Infrastructure to prepare Canterbury for future disasters. The lecture illustrates how information science and technology can help in translating advanced scientific analyses (derived from the earth sciences and social sciences) into practical input for decision making under enormous time pressure.

Speaker: Ilja van Nieuwpoort, MSc, Senior Data Analyst at the Christchurch City Council

Date & Time: Thursday 26 April 2012, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Prof. Dr. Henk Scholten

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 19 April: A Plea for the Soul

This year's 'Month of Philosophy', an annual event organised in the Netherlands each April, has as its theme: The Soul. In this special issue of the 'Who's in town' series' AUC will relate to this theme, and thus to the ongoing philosophical debate on the soul.

In the lecture Dr. Ben Schomakers (Antwerp) will draw attention to important aspects of the phenomenon of the soul as it has functioned as a starting point for Greek Philosophers and literary authors. Schomakers will use Aristotle, author of an impressive investigation of the soul ('De Anima', 'On the Soul'), as his phenomenological guide. The lecture will lead to some critical notes on contemporary tendencies to neglect the soul.

(More info on the film + format of the panel will follow a.s.a.p.)

Speaker:	Dr. Ben Schomakers, Philosopher/Translator
Date & Time:	Thursday 19, April 2011, 18.00 - 21.00
Venue:	AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convenor:	Dr. Mariëtte Willemsen

A

Amsterdam university college

UC

Who's in Town

Tuesday 17 April:

A Global Picture of Liberal Arts Education: Where does an AUC experience -- and graduate! -- fit?

In the last decade, interest in liberal arts education has been growing around the world. New initiatives, programs, and dialogue can now be found in every region. Yet in cultures accustomed to professionally-focused, specialized education, liberal education opportunities continue to be an anomaly. Beyond the Netherlands and the U.S., where are these new liberal education programs and why are they being developed? Where does the experience of AUC students, faculty, administrators -- and graduates! -- fit into the evolving global picture? How might elements of an AUC education impact graduates' employability and future studies? This lecture will begin with a current worldwide picture of liberal education. It will progress into a participatory discussion about the AUC experience and the future of its graduates.

Speaker: Kara Godwin, PhD Candidate, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College

Date & Time: Tuesday 17 April 2012, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 12 April: The 2008 Financial Crisis: Causes and Consequences

In 2005 Raghuram Rajan, former chief-economist of the IMF, almost ruined Alan Greenspan's party at the annual meeting of the world's most important central banks in Jackson Hole, organized by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Instead of celebrating a new era of more stable and more global financial markets, he claimed we were at the dawn of one of the biggest financial crisis ever. His presentation was titled 'Has Financial Development Made the World Riskier?', and his answer was yes. He was right. Future history will record the financial crisis of 2007-2008 as the crisis that has made or broken Europe, as the cause of the longest and deepest recession since the Second World War, and as the crisis that changed the face of financial markets. What caused the crisis? How can we prevent a new one from happening? Are we on the right track? This lecture will consider the challenges faced by economists in answering these questions.

Speaker: Dr. Michiel Bijlsma, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

Date & Time: Thursday 12 April 2012, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Dr. Vessela Chakarova

A

Amsterdam university college

UC

Who's in Town

Tuesday 3 April:

Challenges and Prospects of Self-Assembly for Microtechnology

Construction at the micro- and nanoscale promises to revolutionize many medical, sensing, and energy technologies. However, with promise comes challenge. This lecture will review aspects of static self-assembly in view of synthesizing new types of three-dimensional materials and systems made of specifically designed particles in the 100 nm – 10 μ m range. Such decreases in particle size drastically change material interactions and dynamic properties. Similar to biomolecules like proteins, chains of particles self-assembling to form three-dimensional structures could provide framing for micro- and nanostructured materials. Ideas will be put forward for the assembly of new types of (smart) “supermaterials” with interesting optical, mechanical, electrical and magnetic properties, along with discussion of the technological challenges we are faced with in their realization.

Speaker: Prof. dr. Miko Elwenspoek, professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Twente.

Date & Time: Tuesday 3 April 2012, 20.00-22.00

Venue: AUC Academic Building, Room 1.31

Convenor: Dr. Forrest Bradbury

A

Amsterdam university college

UC

Who's in Town

Monday 21 March: Escher and the Droste effect

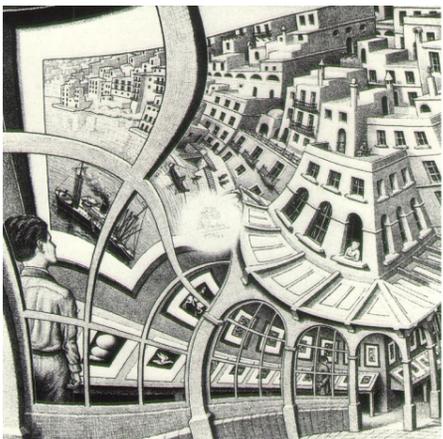
One of M.C. Escher's most intriguing works depicts a man standing in a gallery who looks at a print of a city that contains the building that he is standing in himself. This picture, with the title *Print Gallery*, contains a mysterious white hole in the middle.

In a paper of Hendrik Lenstra it is shown that well known mathematical results about elliptic curves imply that what Escher was trying to achieve in this work has a unique mathematical solution. This discovery opened up the way to filling the void in the print. With help from artists and computer scientists a completion of the picture was constructed at the Universiteit Leiden. The white hole turns out to contain the entire image on a smaller scale, which in the Dutch language is known as the *Droste effect*, after the Dutch chocolate maker Droste.

In the talk the mathematics behind Escher's print and the process of filling the hole will be explained and visualized with computer animations.

Speaker: Dr. Bart de Smit, Mathematical Institute,
Leiden University

Date & Time: Monday 21 March 2012, 20.00-22.00
Venue: AUC Academic Building, ROOM 1.31
Convenor: Dr. Sebastian de Haro



A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 8 March: The idea of Common Pool Resource Management: promises and limitations

During the past decades, theories about Common Pool Resource (CPR) management have developed into a distinctive school of thought. CPR's are either natural or social resources for which it is deemed necessary or desirable to govern and manage them by collective action. Fishing grounds, forests, and meadows are often found to be governed 'in common', but the concept has also been extended to encompass knowledge and culture. Are the commons an alternative to state control and free markets, or are they too constrained by their limitations? This lecture will give a critical introduction to the commons as a broad framework applicable to issues in environmental resource management, political economy, economics, and the humanities.

Speaker: Leo de Klerk, Lecturer at University of Amsterdam, department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies

Date & Time: Thursday 8 March 2012, 18.00 - 20.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convenors: Markus Kaistra and Simon Hadlich

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 1 March:

Rhetoric: A classical method for successful learning in the humanities and social sciences

What is rhetoric? How can it help undergraduates acquire some of the basic academic reasoning and speaking skills needed for success in their choice of major? And how can it make students generally more principled and responsible future citizens? These are the three main questions that will be discussed during this presentation on that arguably most misunderstood of academic disciplines: rhetoric.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Burke, Associate Professor of Rhetoric
Head of the Academic Core Department
Roosevelt Academy, Utrecht University

Date & Time: Thursday 1 March, 18.00 -20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Dr. Ch.J. Forceville

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday 31 January:

Big impact from small size: applications of nanotechnology in society

New nanofabrication technologies offer great possibilities for medical applications. After a brief introduction of Nanomedicine and the concept of "Lab on a Chip" a variety of applications of these topics will be presented and the use of nanoparticles for modern medical imaging and targeted drug delivery will be shown. A disposable point-of-care lithium chip, capable of measuring lithium concentrations in blood for manic depressive patients will be treated as well as a fertility chip to measure the sperm motility and concentration in semen. Using precise, pulsed electrical fields, individual cells can be transfected with DNA creating new cell properties. Finally a radically new idea to make a nanopill that can detect cancerous DNA in the intestines using nanowires will be presented.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ir. Albert van den Berg, Honorary professor and Head of BIOS/Lab-on-a-Chip group, MESA+, University of Twente & Board Member of Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

Date & Time: Tuesday, 31 January 2011, 18:00 - 20:00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Line van den Berg

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 12 January: Is it art yet? Street Art in Amsterdam

Street art is an art form developed in "the streets", where artists challenge the traditional art context. Through the esthetic value of this type of art, street artists communicate with everyday people about socially relevant themes and invite them to question their existing environment.

The Amsterdam Street Art Foundation (ASA) provides street art with a boost to better the image of street artists in Amsterdam and to raise awareness among a wider audience. Nicole Blommers and Jarno Gnirrep, members of ASA, will discuss the various types, past and present, of Street Art in Amsterdam and will share her passion for a type of art that is often neglected in a University setting.

Speakers: Nicole Blommers & Jarno Gnirrep (ASA)

Date & Time: Thursday 12 January 2012, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenors: Drs. Janna Schoenberger & Tina Spitzley

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday 29 November: Can I, a scientific student, believe?

One young lady, when asked what she believed, answered, 'I don't believe, I'm a biologist.' She gives voice to the widely held opinion that Christian belief is not compatible with scientific reason. In this lecture Daan van Schalkwijk will challenge this opinion.

He will illustrate the key components of the debate using a story about an AUC student, who asks himself: 'Can I believe, and be reconciled with my Jewish family?' Using this story, he will explore the key 'conflict' area of Genesis and evolution, as well as the mystery of 'life'. But most importantly, he will indicate a path for those who seek a convincing answer to this life-changing question.

Speaker: Daan van Schalkwijk

Date & Time: Tuesday 29 November, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Joost van Amersfoort

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Thursday 24 November: Re-thinking ethics: engineering compassion in an apathetic universe

We are living in an unprecedented, uniquely critical sliver of time in the Earth's existence, possibly even in that of the universe. Technology is accelerating at an explosive rate, yet intense suffering persists while serious existential threats have emerged. Ethics has never been more important than it is today. But our old paradigms for thinking about it are out-of-date and insufficient for dealing with our current challenges. In this lecture, Jonathan Leighton, a former research scientist and author of the recently published *The Battle for Compassion*, talks about the meaning of ethics and the kinds of multi-disciplinary thinking that will be needed if we are to shape a more compassionate future for our planet.

Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Leighton, Author of *The Battle for Compassion: Ethics in an Apathetic Universe*

Date & Time: Thursday, 24 November 2011, 20.00 - 22.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Dr. Fred Spier

A

Amsterdam university college

UC

Who's in Town

Tuesday 24 November: Same-sex relationships in Europe: trends toward tolerance?

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the legalisation of gay marriage in the Netherlands. However, the legal recognition of same-sex relationships continues to be a complex legislative knot across Europe.

We are proud to invite Dr. Ian Curry-Sumner, Senior Lecturer at the University of Utrecht and an acclaimed and captivating speaker, elected Lecturer of the Year in 2008. He will speak on the recognition of same-sex relationships in Europe from a legal perspective, cunningly illustrating the absurd web of loopholes where divorce, marriage, civil union, surrogacy and adoption intersect.

Speaker: Dr. Ian Curry-Sumner, Senior University Lecturer at Utrecht University in Comparative Law, Private International Law, and Family Law

Date & Time: Thursday, 24 November 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenors: Laura Loonstein and Shanna Hanbury

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Monday 14 November:

The Corporate Perspective:

Risk Management in the European Debt Crisis

What is risk? How does it relate to the European Sovereign Debt Crisis? We read a lot about these questions from a political perspective. But what are the answers from a corporate viewpoint? For example, private lenders will have to accept significant losses on their sovereign debt holdings. How do they go about this? How do the corporate players deal with risk during the Sovereign Debt Crisis?

Detmer Koekoek, Head of Investment Risk Management at ING Insurance will talk about the role of risk management addressing both global trends and the current European Debt Crisis as well as the challenges he faces at ING Insurance & Investment Management.

Speaker: Detmer Koekoek, Head of Investment Risk Management at ING Insurance.

Date & Time: Monday 14 November 2011, 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Leonard Wein

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Tuesday 8 November: Covering Discoveries: Traps of Science Journalism

Why is science in the media so often pointless, simplistic, boring, or just plain wrong?... In their choice of stories, and the way they cover them, the media create a parody of science... (Ben Goldacre, Bad Science, The Guardian, September 8, 2005).

A panel of scientists and (science) journalists will explore ways to write about science in a colorful yet comprehensive way that makes the discoveries accessible and attractive to the public while keeping them trustworthy and accurate.

Confirmed speakers: Sander Bais (Physicist, author and UvA Lecturer of the Year 2010), Martijn van Calmthout (Volkskrant), Margriet van der Heijden (NRC), Lennard Bonapart (Medical journalist), Govert Schilling (Astronomy correspondent), Jaap Seidell (Nutrition and Health expert), Jeroen van Dongen (Philosophy of Science lecturer) and Stefan Vandoren (Superstring Theory expert).

Date & Time: Tuesday 8 November 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Moderator: Prof. Sander Bais | Convenors: Zuzanna Fimińska and Karlijn Hoyer

A

Who's in Town

Amsterdam university college

UC

Wednesday 26 October: The role of Artis Zoo in contemporary society

Artis, the Amsterdam Royal Zoo, represents a complex history of both material and immaterial culture. Founded in 1838 as Natura Artis Magistra, Nature is the Teacher of Art and Science, its founders formulated broad objectives: bringing together a living collection of animals in a park, creating museums and collections and founding a library for study and research. Zoology, botany, nature, natural history, art, geography and ethnography all became the focus of interest. What is the significance of this venture for contemporary society? How may we revive its coherent goals in a period that demands new liaisons between nature and culture?

Speaker: Erik A. de Jong, Artis-hoogleraar UvA

Date & Time: Wednesday 26 October 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Dr. Cor Zonneveld

natura
ARTIS
magistra

A

Who's in Town

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Monday 26 September:

No escape from the past? China – backwards and forwards in a period of disavowal.

Does it matter what and how we remember our childhoods, and if our own children and grand-children know anything about our past? What goes missing when memories are lost, discarded or suppressed? And, what role might the visual arts play in creating a repository of shared recollection? In this illustrated talk, Stephanie Hemelryk Donald considers Chinese artists and film-makers whose work refers us back to the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). She debates the representational strategies employed by creative practitioners whose work insists that the past is relevant to the present. She concludes that our childhoods are crucial points of reference for our humanity, and that in art, as in all other aspects of lived experience, respect for the child's perspective can only be of benefit to us all.

Speaker: Prof.dr. Stephanie Hemelryk Donald FASSA FRSA. Dean of Media and Communication, RMIT University. Honorary Professor of Chinese Media Studies, University of Sydney.

Date & Time: Monday 26 September 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Pauline Kastermans

A

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Thursday 15 September: Drugs in Art: Instant Inspiration or Placebo?

Many drugs have (had) a reputation for stimulating creativity, but when put to the test of science, the results have been amazingly contradictory. Despite dozens of guinea pigs in experimental 'before-and-after' set-ups, some researchers concluded that drugs were nothing but detrimental to art, while others claimed the exact opposite. Whence these differences? Placebos were needed to ultimately confirm what one of the instigators of the drugs-in-art tradition, Thomas de Quincey, stated in his 1821 *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*: 'If a man "whose talk is of oxen" should become an opium-eater, the probability is that (if he is not too dull to dream at all) he will dream about oxen

Speaker: Dr. Jos ten Berge | VU University, Faculty of Arts
(Art and Culture)

Date & Time: Thursday 15 September 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Stella Toonen

A

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Monday 20 June - The Roots of Rap: Radical Race Politics and Music in Harlem, 1969-1979

Rap's formative period, with its untrained, amateur performers and informal, folk settings, was very brief. Just a few years after DJs and MCs began hijacking electricity from electric utility poles in Harlem and the Bronx to power the mixing, scratching, and rapping, the music had become a highly commercialised phenomenon, a slick, expletive-free product that rejected the racial polemics and aesthetics of Malcolm X and the Last Poets for an obsession with sexual performance and conspicuous consumption. None of the participants in the very first rap hit, the Sugar Hill Gang's "Rapper's Delight," came from that fabled locus of Black identity in Harlem--indeed, the song was recorded in a suburban New Jersey recording studio. No wonder that when reaction came it was so extreme. The angry, shockingly coarse music of Public Enemy and the entire gangsta rap phenomenon that followed was nothing less than an attempt to recapture the authenticity of a time when political protest and Black music supposedly went hand in hand.

Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Gill

Date & Time: Monday 20 June, 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Tobias Schüster

A

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Tuesday 10 May: 20 Years after Apartheid - the future of the Kalahari Desert

During Apartheid over 1.5 million South-Africans were displaced to designated rural areas, constituting only 14% of South African land. Today, 30,000 displaced South-Africans continue to suffer from the racial segregation policies imposed in the past. Since the beginnings of Apartheid, Sir Ambrose Kelly has been devoted to improving living conditions for the inhabitants of the Moshanweng Valley in the Kalahari Desert. What factors continue to stand in the way of progress and which present the biggest challenges almost 20 years after the end of Apartheid?

Speaker: Sir Ambrose Kelly (Founder Kalahari Experience NGO)

Date & Time: Tuesday 10 May 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: AUCSA - Kalahari Experience NGO

A

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Tuesday 26 April: Working for multinationals - behind the scenes

What do multinationals such as Shell look for? What will you get in return once you join Shell? Susan Cooke (Senior Recruiter) will share her personal stories and will elaborate on the skills required to be successful in a global, dynamic and diverse company like Shell.

Susan Cooke studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Twente. After an additional master programme in France (Ecole du Pétrole et des Moteurs), she joined Shell in 2000 as a technical graduate. Two years ago, she joined Recruitment.

Speaker: Susan Cooke (Senior Recruiter, Shell)
Date & Time: Tuesday 26 April 2011, 18.30 - 20.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convenor: Djuna Croon



A

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Monday 18 April: Is doping in sports inevitable?

Performance enhancing drugs are mostly used to improve athletic performance. This is why many sports ban the use of performance enhancing drugs. Since 1999 the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), an independent international body, is responsible for coordination and monitoring of the global fight against doping. It is best known for its "List of prohibited Substances and Methods", updated yearly, and the "World Anti-Doping Code" for harmonisation of policies, rules and regulations. In the presentation an overview of possibilities to enhance performance, with examples of their use, will be given and the ethics of doping will be discussed.

Speaker: Jos H.H. Thijssen, Professor Emeritus 'Clinical Chemistry' and 'Clinical Chemistry of Hormones', Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University Medical Centre Utrecht

Date & Time: Monday 18 April, 18.30 - 20.00
Venue: Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convenor: Ella van der Haar

A

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Monday 11 April: clash over a currency: the euro debate

The recent euro crisis has evoked another debate on the common European currency. Two economists, both teachers at AUC, will discuss the benefits and characteristics of the euro. Prof. Klamer, a critic of the euro, does not predict a long-lasting future partly because of political instability. By evaluating the sovereign debt crisis, both professors will present their views and assess the implications for the euro and its future.

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Arjo Klamer (Erasmus University Rotterdam and Amsterdam University College)
Prof. Dr. Eric Bartelsman (VU University Amsterdam and Amsterdam University College)

Date & Time: Monday 11 April 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library, Darwin Room (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: AUC Debating

A

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Monday 4 April: Signals & Signposts - 'Zone of Uncertainty' Ahead

Shell has recently updated its Energy Scenarios 2050. 'Signals & Signposts' offers a deeper understanding of global developments and the world's energy supply, use and needs. We believe that the world is entering an era of volatile transitions and intensified economic cycles. The scenarios help us to make crucial choices in uncertain times as we grapple with tough energy and environmental issues. In a seminar-style meeting (with a short presentation of 15-20 minutes) Prof. Dr. Ewald Breunese would like to discuss the scenarios with students. A summary of 'Signals and Signposts' is available at www.auc.nl and the entire document at www.shell.com/scenarios.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ewald Breunese (Coordinator Grants & Incentives, Shell Netherlands)

Date & Time: Monday 4 April, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library, Merian Room (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Dr. Paul F. Hudson

Format: Seminar-style with a short presentation (15-20 minutes)



A

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Friday 1 April: Identity Equipment: Technology, Memory, Narrative

John Eakin examines the dynamics of the stories we tell about our lives in bits and pieces every day. He argues that we do so not just because we take pleasure in talking about ourselves, but because we have been trained from an early age to participate in a systematic, rule-governed exchange of identity stories. Even though autonomy may seem to be built into the very act of self-representation—"I say who I am, I say what I've done"—others police our performance, and it is also true that we do this policing ourselves.

In his talk, Eakin focuses on the resources we use to perform this identity work: technology, memory, and narrative. Our identities, he concludes, are not given to us but made by us, using physical and social equipment that both enables and limits the persons we claim to be.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. John Eakin, Ruth N. Halls Professor Emeritus of English, Indiana University, Bloomington

Respondents: Dr. Jaap Bos, Tanny Dobbelaar, and Dr. Rudolph Glitz

Date & Time: Friday 1 April 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenors: Dr. Marco de Waard and Dr. Monica Soeting

IABA Europe

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Thursday 24 March: The Science Behind the Disaster: the Japanese Crisis

All of us have followed the news in Japan with horror; a tsunami followed by a nuclear disaster threatening an entire country. The media mainly focuses on the effects; the *how* and *what* are not explained in scientific depth, a gap this lecture will try to fill. Dr. Lankreijer will explain the geographic aspects of this quake and tsunami. Prof. Griessen will talk about the nuclear disaster. There will be also room for discussion and questions at the end of the lecture.

Speakers: Dr. Anco Lankreijer (AUC, VU University, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences) and Prof. Dr. Ronald Griessen (AUC, and former professor at VU University, Faculty of Sciences)

Date & Time: Thursday 24 March, 19.00 - 20.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenors: Steven de Grauw & Roelant Stegmann

A

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Tuesday 22 March: Sustainable globalisation - a world to be won

What can the Netherlands do for globalisation and what can globalisation do for the Netherlands? These are, in broad terms, the issues to be discussed during the lecture "Sustainable globalisation: a World to be won", by Alexander Rinnooy Kan, chairman of the Social and Economic Council.

In the Netherlands there is still nervousness regarding the effects of globalisation. Mr. Rinnooy Kan will emphasise that even in a globalised world, governments have and will have a wide array of policy options, on a national as well as on a supranational (European) level.

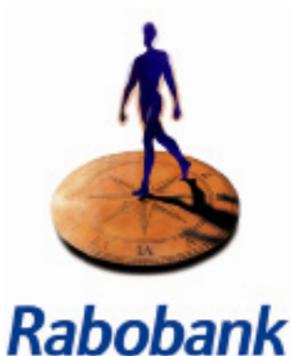
Globalisation offers the Netherlands the opportunity to provide maximum benefit to the sustainable balance between the interests of companies, people and the environment (people, planet, profit).

Speaker: Alexander Rinnooy Kan, President of the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands

Date & Time: Thursday 22 March 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Sander Tordoir



A

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Monday 21 March: Moral dilemmas in medical practice

Medical practice is characterised by moral dilemmas. What should professionals do when a patient does not want to know information about risks and side effects of a burdensome treatment? Should the healthcare team respect the right not to know, or insist that the patient has to know what might happen in order to make a well-considered decision about undergoing the treatment?

In a pilot course on medical ethics, four methods were examined which can be used to analyse such moral problems:

- case-analysis using models of the physicians-patient relationship
- case-analysis in terms of relationships and responsibilities
- case-analysis in terms of perspectives, values and norms (moral case deliberation)
- narrative analysis

In this presentation, these methods will be applied to a concrete case by groups of students of the course.

Teacher: Prof. Dr. G.A.M. Widdershoven, VUmc

Date & Time: Monday 21 March 2011, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convenor: Michèle Bolscher

A

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Monday 21 March: Head-On (Gegen die Wand, 2004) with Katherine Pratt Ewing

Head-On (Gegen die Wand, 2004), by Turkish-German director Fatih Akin, was the first German film in many years to win the Golden Bear of the Berlin Film Festival. The film is a bravura depiction of love, sex, transnational lives, and vulnerable ethnic identities. After the screening, a discussion will be held with anthropologist Katherine Pratt Ewing (University of Wisconsin-Madison), whose recent book, *Stolen Honor: Stigmatizing Muslim Men in Berlin* (Stanford, 2008), includes an analysis of Head-On. Professor Ewing's previous work has been on Islam in Pakistan, state-church relations in Europe, "anthropological atheism," and Muslim diasporic cinema.

With: Katherine Pratt Ewing (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Date & Time: Monday 21 March
Screening of Film: 9.00 - 11.00
Discussion: 12.30 - 13.30
Convenor: Pál Nyíri
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

A

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Thursday 10 March: Genes, behaviour and crime

Crime and criminal behaviour has long been understood as a social phenomenon. But nowadays it seems that we are witnessing a biological turn. Behavioural genetics, clinical neuroscience and brain research are receiving more attention (and money). The hope is that diagnostic techniques for anti-social behaviour and tools to prevent criminal behaviour will be developed in these fields. It is vital to take the biology of criminal behaviour into account, but also to think critically about the social effects of the biologization and medicalization of criminal behaviour. How are the efforts and promises of behavioural genetics and the neurosciences changing the law, policy and practice of diagnosis and prevention? What are the effects for societies, for specific groups and at risk ('suspect') individuals?

Speakers: Dr. Amade M'charek (University of Amsterdam) and
Prof. Dr. Toine Pieters (VU University Medical Centre)

Date & Time: Thursday 10 March 2011, 18.00 - 19.30
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Dr. Ramon Puras

A

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Tuesday 1 March: Why we cannot make life

"The origin of life on earth" is one of the most intriguing scientific topics, while the wish to create life in a laboratory is amongst its most difficult challenges. Progress in science and technology over the past decades has provided many deep insights into the composition and functioning of living systems. Today, on the one hand, we can clone sheep, grow organs from stem cells, while cells, plants, animals and bacteria have been genetically modified. On the other hand, the synthesis of small and large molecules has become so sophisticated that almost every molecule that exists on earth can now also be made in a laboratory, including long strands of DNA, proteins and complex drugs that can cure diseases. These insights also show the complexity of the molecular biology of living cells. As a result, the astonishment about how life could ever have originated has further increased. This lecture will illustrate the challenges that are encountered while seeking to understand the origin of life, including an explanation of why it will take a very long time before a living cell can be made in a laboratory out of its individual components. Special attention will be paid to the self-organisation of complex supra-molecular systems as a critical step in the building process.

Speaker: Prof. Bert Meijer, Eindhoven University of Technology,
Scientific Director of the Institute for Complex Molecular
Systems

Date & time: Tuesday 1 March 2011, 18.00 - 19.30
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Dr. Fred Spier

A

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Monday 21 February: Amsterdam and New York: photography in the era of globalisation

This lecture will examine the impact of globalisation on the urban imaginary in relation to a recent art exhibition, commissioned by the Dutch government in 2009. A group of contemporary New York artists were invited to photograph Amsterdam to mark the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of Manhattan. Selected artists sought to produce work capable of defamiliarising established images of Amsterdam. Seeing Amsterdam through the lens of New York photographers enabled new and surprising perspectives on four key aspects of the city: the street, the night, the water, and the outskirts. Interrogating this claim, the lecture will analyse individual artworks, the marketing and staging strategies of the exhibition, and – most importantly – the role that transnational exchange can play in both resisting and reinforcing dominant, globalised images of contemporary city spaces.

Speaker: Prof. Christoph Lindner, Director of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA)

Date & Time: Monday 21 February 2011, 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: AUC Academic Building Room 1.31

Convened by: Kadri Koop

A

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Wednesday 16 February: Dutch Citizenship and Politics

In countries like France and the United States citizenship means being active in politics, even to the point of starting a revolution. That is not the case in the Netherlands. What has citizenship meant here, and how has it changed over time? And how do current populist currents affect the way Dutch citizens think and act on politics?

Speaker: Prof.Dr. James C. Kennedy, Faculty of History,
University of Amsterdam

Respondent: Dr. Bart Jan Spruyt, Columnist Elsevier

Date & Time: Wednesday 16 February 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara

A

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Monday 14 February: Challenges to Women's Rights

Throughout the world, women's rights are still neglected and severely challenged; this not only happens in non-Western countries, also in Europe and the US these difficulties are faced. What are the most pressing women's rights issues today? How can policy changes in the EU give more meaning to women's rights? How have changes in the US immigration system affected the position of women living there, and how does this differ from the current situation in the EU? These issues will be addressed by two prominent researchers from Human Rights Watch.

Speakers: Meghan Road, researcher Human Rights Watch
Gauri van Gulik, researcher Human Rights Watch

Date & Time: Monday 14 February 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Monique Spijkers and Billy Holzberg

A

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Tuesday 8 February: Corporate Governance in a Globalised Context

Shareholders in listed companies seem to be the most trustful people in the world. They have no contractual relationship with the companies whose shares they hold. To recoup their money they have to find another investor willing to buy the shares. Nonetheless zillions of savings are invested in listed equities all over the world. But how do shareholders get managers to return some of the profits to them? How do they make sure that managers do not steal the capital or invest in bad projects? How do shareholders control managers? That is what corporate governance is about.



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Speaker: Dr. Paul Frentrop, author of 'A History of Corporate Governance', a book that describes the international development of corporate governance since the Dutch East India Company issues shares to the public in 1602.

Date & Time: Tuesday 8 February 2011, 18.30 - 20.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Bastiaan Gielink

A

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Monday 31 January: Energy, Climate Change and the Limits of Planet Earth

In the first decade of this century, we are confronted with the limits of planet Earth with an intensity reminiscent of the 1970s. Now as then the question is: will exponential growth hit the wall, or will new technology once again save the day? This broad topic will be explored starting from the Shell Energy Scenarios, and adding analysis by the author on the pace of technological change.

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Gert Jan Kramer
Leiden University, Shell Global Solutions

Date & Time: Monday 31 January 2011, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Paul F. Hudson



A

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Thursday 20 January: Feeding the world: the im- portance of sustainability

Sustainability is about reducing damage to mother Earth, developing an economy where everybody can participate now and in the future. We have to feed nine billion people in a sustainable manner by 2050. How can we accomplish this challenging task?

In this lecture, Berry Marttin will give some insights into this challenge we all face. Why is a sustainable supply chain important? What role can a bank play in the Food & Agri value chain in order to match demand and supply of food in a sustainable manner?

Speaker: Berry Marttin, Member of the Executive Board,
Rabobank Nederland

Date & Time: Thursday 20 January 2011, 18.00 - 20.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Sander Tordoir and Timo Gerritsen



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Monday 6 December: Understanding Scientific Understanding

Achieving understanding of nature is a central aim of science. But what exactly is scientific understanding and how is it achieved? Although these are clearly philosophical questions, they have long been neglected by philosophers of science because of the assumption that understanding is purely subjective and therefore irrelevant to a philosophical account of science.

Dr. Henk de Regt will argue against this view. After presenting two examples from the history of science, he will offer an analysis of the nature of scientific understanding that accords with scientific practice and accommodates the historical diversity of conceptions of understanding. Its core idea is a general criterion for the intelligibility of scientific theories that is essentially contextual: which theories conform to this criterion depends on contextual factors, and can change in the course of time. His analysis provides a general account of how understanding is provided by scientific explanations of diverse types.

Speaker: Dr. Henk W. de Regt
Faculty of Philosophy, VU University Amsterdam

Date & Time: Monday 6 December 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Sebastian de Haro

A

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Wednesday 17 November: Evolution of the human mind

Evolutionary psychologists assume that the human mind evolved just like body parts such as the heart, the liver and the kidneys. If most scientists are Darwinists, why is this a controversial point of view? How do we design experiments to test this assumption?

We will discuss research on the evolution of social exchange, language, and sex differences in cognition, and design a future research program for psychology based on insights from evolutionary theory.

Speaker:

- Dr. Annemie Ploeger, Developmental Psychology,
University of Amsterdam

Date & Time: Wednesday 17 November 2010, 14.00 - 16.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Eddy de Bruijn

A

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Monday 15 November: Ethics at the end of life

In the past decades, patients have gained influence on decisions in health care. If a competent patient refuses treatment, this should be respected by the physician. In the Netherlands, physicians are legally allowed to help a patient who asks for active termination of life if the patient suffers unbearably. Recently, an initiative was launched to enable people over 70 who feel that life has become meaningless and want to die, to get assistance from professionals in terminating their life. What are we to think of this? Can medical ethics help to find answers to difficult issues surrounding the end of life?

Speaker:

- Prof. Dr. Guy Widdershoven, Department of Medical Humanities,
VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam

Date & Time: Monday 15 November 2010, 18.30 - 20.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Michèle Bolscher

A

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Friday 12 November: Yoseph Mulugeta and Human Rights Watch

Despite a worsening human rights record, Ethiopia receives more than 3 billion dollars in foreign aid every year—a third of its national budget. The Ethiopian government uses this aid to consolidate control by the ruling party. Yoseph Mulugeta, former secretary-general of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council and recently honoured with the prestigious Alison des Forges Award for his work, and Leslie Lefkow, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch, will give a talk and discussion on development aid, human rights and the case of Ethiopia.

Speakers:

- Yoseph Mulugeta, former secretary-general of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council and recipient Alison des Forges Award
- Leslie Lefkow, Senior Researcher at Human Rights Watch

Date & Time: Friday 12 November 2010, 18.00 - 19:30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

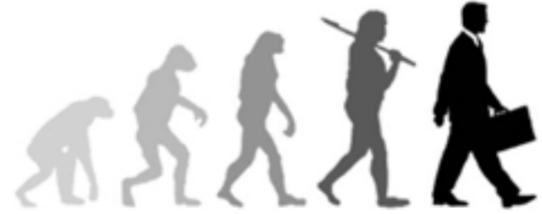
Convened by: Tobias Schuster

A

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Wednesday 10 November: Evolutionary Psychology and the Human Workplace

Both the animal zoo and human organisations are artificial environments in which organisms function. In the zoo we've learned that the way we design this artificial environment will affect the animal profoundly. Animals will do a lot better when their zoo environment matches their natural environment. This lesson works the same way for human organisations. People will perform better, feel better and will be more motivated when the design of a human organisation matches human nature. Just as the animal zoo evolved from brick and steel cages to complex ecosystems, human organisations will have to evolve to human ecosystems. In this lecture, Max Wildschut will explain how evolutionary psychology will help organizations to take the next step into the future.

Speaker: Drs. Max Wildschut, cognitive psychologist and author, researcher at Darwinworks!

Date & Time: Wednesday 10 November 2010, 14.00 - 16.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Dr. Eddy de Bruijn

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Tuesday 9 November:

Captured Death: The Boundaries of Photojournalism

Programme

Introduction by Willem Diepraam, recipient of the BNO Piet Zwart Prize, the Dutch Design Awards lifetime achievement award, on the history, mission, and principles of war reporting.

Panel Debate

Jan Banning is an award-winning photojournalist who has covered, among others, the legacy of Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Prof. Dr. Johannes Houwink ten Cate, Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

Zoriah Miller is an award-winning photojournalist who "specializes in documenting human crises in developing countries."

Jeroen Oerlemans is a photojournalist who has covered numerous conflicts from Sudan to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and Palestine to Iran and Iraq.

Dr. Mariëtte Willemsen teaches courses in philosophy and aesthetics at the VU University Amsterdam, with a focus on emotion, fiction, and action.

Q&A with the audience

Date & Time: Tuesday 9 November 2010, 18.00 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Maximilia Lane and Zuzanna Fiminska

A

Who's in Town

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Tuesday 2 November: International students as temporary migrants Cosmopolitan assets? Dangerous invaders? Or quasi-citizens?

Officially, nations like the Netherlands say they value international students. But do they? In most countries the status of international students is marginal and ambiguous. They fall between two national citizenship regimes. Having left behind the protections, rights and entitlements of their homeland, in the country of education they become outsiders with few rights, weakening their integration with local students and communities. Prof. Marginson argues for a re-norming of international education, in which international students are treated as quasi-citizens for the duration of their stay.

Speaker: Prof. Simon Marginson
Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the
University of Melbourne

Date & Time: Tuesday 2 November 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende

A

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Monday 1 November: Two travel writers sharing one passion: Darwin

Widely known as the founding father of evolutionary theory, the human side of Darwin is far less known. What drove him to postpone publication of his life work for almost 20 years? What made him change his mind? How did his many illnesses interfere with his life as a scientist? How was he able to transgress the Victorian worldview in his theory of sexual selection?

Redmond O'Hanlon is a well known travel writer; on top of that, he is a Darwin specialist. Celebrating the bicentennial of Darwin's birthday, he re-enacted Darwin's voyage on the beagle which was broadly covered by the media. Dutch travel writer Alexander Reeuwijk will interview O'Hanlon on travelling, writing about travelling, and what O'Hanlon's voyage of the Beagle taught him about Darwin.

Speakers:

- Redmond O'Hanlon, Travel writer and Darwin specialist
- Alexander Reeuwijk, Travel writer

Date & Time: Monday 1 November 2010, 18.30 - 20.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Cor Zonneveld

A

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Wednesday 27 October: Jazz improvisation approach to entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is the process of discovering, evaluating and exploiting opportunities for innovative products, services or technologies. Entrepreneurship is driven by ideas, which are in infinite supply; no scarcity theory applies to ideas. There is no generally accepted theory of entrepreneurship and the speaker will use jazz improvisation, the creative process of composing on the spot and coming up with melodies off the top of one's head, as a metaphor for understanding the 'DNA' of entrepreneurship. Questions that will be discussed throughout the session will include: Why and how some ventures are successful while many fail? Why and how Google, Apple and the like grew to become leading global players? Should entrepreneurship be part of academic curriculum?

Speaker: Dr. Tsvi Vinig, University of Amsterdam Business School, runs the Specialisation in Entrepreneurship at the Masters in Business Studies and the Amsterdam Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) @ Science Park

Date & Time: Wednesday 27 October 2010, 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Marius Kirschke

A

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Monday 18 October: Philosophical Prophecy and the Origins of Liberalism: Hobbes and Spinoza on Salvation

Philosophic prophecy is a genre of philosophic writing which aims to provide an account, often historical or mythical, that is intended to promote a desirable and possible future. While philosophic prophecy is not always self-fulfilling, its existence is presupposed for a possible future. That is to say, our present, once unforeseen, actions can be the intended outcome of past design. Presupposing that Spinoza and Hobbes were practitioners of this genre, how do their political theories re-interpret the nature of salvation?

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Eric Schliesser
Faculty of Philosophy and Moral Sciences, University of Ghent

Date & Time: Monday 18 October 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara

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Monday 18 October: Book Launch: Doe Normaal (Act Normal)

Student and author Thiandi Grooff has, as she writes herself: "a good mind in a strange body". Due to brain damage she has severe difficulty in coordinating her muscles. She is unable to speak, but is still vocal. Her book is an account of her emotions and struggles in her daily life in London and the Netherlands before she entered AUC as a student. In honour of Thiandi's book, Alderwoman van Es will speak about her policy on diversity and participation in the city of Amsterdam.

Speakers:

Drs. Andrée van Es, City of Amsterdam Alderwoman responsible for Work, Income and Participation, Diversity and Integration and Administrative Systems

Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende, Dean, Amsterdam University College

Date & Time: Monday 18 October 2010, 15.30 - 17.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Trix Grooff

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Wednesday 29 September: Probability and statistics in court: the roles of the expert and the judge

Should the judge become a statistician? In recent years we have witnessed several legal cases where it became clear that judges and other legal representatives had difficulties understanding probabilistic reasoning, which led to serious mistakes. In this lecture, Prof. Dr. Meester first explains why legal representatives should have some knowledge of statistics and probability and then discusses what the role of the statistical expert should be.

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Ronald Meester, Department of Mathematics, VU University Amsterdam

Date & Time: Wednesday 29 September 2010, 10.00 - 12.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Dr. Cor Zonneveld

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ISLAMIC ART: Definition, concept and impact on western culture

What is the significance of Islamic art for the identity of Muslims and how has it influenced western culture as we know it? Drs. Michal Shabtay, media artist, filmmaker and curator draws on her knowledge of historical cultural traditions to show that the recognition of the mutual exchange of culture and knowledge, throughout history, can stimulate respect and a better cooperation between cultures.

Speaker:

Drs. Michal Shabtay, Artistic Director of the Mesis Foundation, which initiates cultural projects

Date & Time: Thursday 17 June 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Thiandi Grooff

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CLIMATE FOR SCIENCE

The seminar series "Climate for Science" aims to focus on a series of subjects that are at the interface between Science and Society. A typical Liberal Arts and Sciences approach is chosen in order to tackle relevant "real world problems." This may require an interdisciplinary approach, bridging the borders between academic disciplines. Five different perspectives will be addressed: Science, Media, IPCC, Policy makers and Civil society.

Prof. Dr. Robbert Dijkgraaf, University Professor of Mathematical Physics at the UvA and President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)

Prof. Dr. Ir. Louise Fresco, University Professor of Sustainable Development in an International Perspective at the UvA and Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)

Date & Time: Wednesday 9 June 2010, 14.00 - 17.00
Friday 25 June 2010, 14.00 - 17.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Student Assistants: Sanne Hettinga and Tobias Schuster

* Seminars open to selected students only.

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LESS PREVENTION, MORE AMBITION: Dutch development policy in perspective

What is the actual status of Dutch development aid? Why would the Netherlands continue to give aid? What should a reformation in the actual aid structure look like? These are some of the questions that the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WWR) addressed in their report on development aid. As part of the research team, Drs. Vanessa Nigten will present their findings and what should be done about the future of Dutch development aid policy.

Speaker:

Drs. Vanessa Nigten, Scientific researcher in development aid at the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WWR)

Date & Time: Monday 7 June 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Casper Thomas, MA

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UN, NOW U! Make, do and mend

Should the efficiency of the United Nations be improved? Does the UN fail to deal with international security issues adequately? Can our generation someday make the UN function more effectively?

Amsterdam International Model United Nations will host an evening on the topic of the UN. AIMUN will present itself and its plans to bring MUN to AUC and will proudly host a panel discussion with a variety of experts in the field of the UN.

Panel:

Prof. Dr. Wouter G. Werner, Public International Law,
VU University Amsterdam

Dr. Dick Leurdijk, United Nations expert, Clingendael,
Netherlands Institute of International Relations

Dr. Ton Zwaan, Sociologist and Senior Lecturer at the
Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, UvA

Date & Time: Wednesday 26 May 2010, 18.00 - 21:00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: AIMUN
Moderator: Dr. Louise Vigeant



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Tuesday 18 May:

DEVELOPMENT AID:

**The effects and consequences
of the economic crisis**

Does development aid hurt or help the countries that receive it? What effects has the economic crisis had on development aid? Drs. Bert Koenders, former Minister for Development Cooperation in the Netherlands, will discuss the positive and negative effects of development aid as well as the repercussions of the economic crisis on development aid.

Speaker:

Drs. Bert Koenders, former Minister for Development Cooperation and member of the PvdA (Dutch Labour Party)

Date & Time: Tuesday 18 May 2010, 17.00 - 18.30

Venue: AUC Academic Building Room 1.31

Convened by: Martijn Hagoort

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Thursday 22 April:

NO ELEGIES FOR GUTENBERG: The Culture of Print and Our Digital Future

Does the advent of the Internet spell demise for the print media? Professor David Thorburn, an expert in the area of film and media and cultural studies, suggests that this view is premature. He discusses why print media will survive the creation of the Internet, just as radio survived the dawn of television.

Speaker:

Prof. David Thorburn, Professor of Literature and Director of the MIT Communications Forum

Date & Time: Thursday 22 April 2010, 19.00 - 21.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Mr. Tienko Rasker (Ivy League Circle, MIT alumnus)

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Wednesday 14 April: COMPARING DEMOCRACIES

Boris Dittrich, a resident of the United States and Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch, will compare the transparency of Dutch democracy with that of the USA. Which system gives more power to the people? And is that a wise thing to do?

Speaker: Boris Dittrich
Former D66 party leader and Advocacy Director,
Human Rights Watch

Date & Time: Wednesday 14 April 2010, 17.00 - 18.30
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Dr. Ramon Puras

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Monday 12 April:

CIVIL WAR AND TERRORISM IN SRI LANKA

The civil war in Sri Lanka ended after 25 years in a cruel final battle in May 2009. The conflict however, remains unresolved. Thérèse Onderdenwijngaard, an expert in the field, will give an overview of the history of Sri Lanka and its recent conflict and describe today's situation.

Speaker:

Drs. Thérèse Onderdenwijngaard, Lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences, VU University Amsterdam

Date & Time: Monday 12 April 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Tobias Schuster

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Thursday 8 April: AFTERSHOCKS: reflections on the economic crisis

In the midst of the deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, Casper Thomas was involved in a project asking leading politicians and business people from around the world to reflect on the aftershocks that may be expected in the political, economic and social spheres. He will present the outcomes of the project.

Speaker:

Casper Thomas, MA graduate of University College Maastricht and University College London. Staff member at the Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR)

Date & Time: Thursday 8 April 2010, 18.30 - 20.00

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende

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Thursday 25 March: CLIMATE AFTER COPENHAGEN

The EU did not achieve its objectives at the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009. Prof. Dr. Berkhout, who was part of the Dutch scientific delegation in Copenhagen outlines the main results of Copenhagen and what this will mean for the future of European climate policy.

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Frans Berkhout (Professor of Innovation and Sustainability, and Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the VU University Amsterdam)

Date & Time: Thursday 25 March 2010, 18.30 - 20.00
Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)
Convened by: Tobias Schuster



Thursday November 26: THE CLIMATE BATTLE

Discussion: Is climate change overestimated or are we pushing the natural boundaries of our planet? Will a rising sea level wipe the Netherlands of the world map? Do we need to change our life styles or will Carbon storage do the trick? Do these questions bother you and cause you sleepless nights...then come to the Climate Battle!

Speakers:

Hans Bolscher (Executive Director, Dutch Carbon Capture and Storage Project)

Dr. Bert Metz (Head of Delegation, Kyoto Protocol negotiations for the Netherlands)

Date & Time: Thursday November 26, 2009 , 18.00 - 21.30 Hrs.

Venue: AUC Artis Library (Plantage Middenlaan 45)

Convened by: The Student Think Tank





6 November 2009
Who's in Town:
IRAN: FRACTURES IN
AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

SOHRAB BEHDAD, Denison University

Professor Behdad was born and raised in Iran. After completing his Ph.D. in economics at Michigan State University in 1973, he returned to Iran, where he taught at the Tehran University until 1983. He then “left Iran and left the university to the gang of hezbollah” who “purified” the university and reformed Iran’s economy to be islamic. His current research focuses on the political economy of Iran, and Islam and public policy.

The seminar will be at the Artis Library. 16.00 - 17.30
No advanced registration required

Convened by Sander Tordoir, AUC Student Think Thank