

HUMANITIES GRADUATE SCHOOL CONFERENCE 2025



The Human Body in Culture, History, and Expression

UU Humanities Graduate School Conference 2025: Programme

Conference – Thursday 22 May 2025

Location: Academiegebouw, Domplein 29, 3512 JE Utrecht

All speakers are (R)MA students, recent alumni or PhD candidates from the Humanities Graduate School at Utrecht University

Time	Programme	Room
9:00-9.30	<i>Conference registration opens</i> <i>Coffee & Tea</i>	Zaal 1636
9:30-10:30	Keynote Dr. Willemijn Ruberg - Historicizing the right to bodily autonomy	Aula
10:30-10:40	<i>Room change</i>	
10:40-11:25	Parallel Sessions 1 <i>Becoming Posthuman Bodies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jonathan Kirn - Performing More-than-Human Bodies. Blurring Boundaries in BVDS' <i>Song of Songs</i>.Nienke Draaisma - Don't Be Silent About the Goosebumps: A New Literary Materialist Reading of <i>The Song of the Stork</i> (2022) and <i>Dromedary</i> (2026)	Belle van Zuylenzaal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biancamaria Gotti - Becoming Immortal by Becoming Posthuman: Transhumanism, Mindcloning, and the Misconception of the Self <p><i>Bodies in Protest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negar Asgharifard - The female biopolitical body: gendered state violence during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests in Iran Kimberly Lee - Embodied Resistance: The Human Body and Protest Art in Hong Kong's Street Movements Yasaman Bathaee - Exploring identity and resistance in contemporary Iranian art 	Kanunnikenzaal
11.25-11.45	<i>Coffee break</i>	Zaal 1636
11:45-12:30	<p>Parallel Sessions 2</p> <p><i>Disability and sense-making</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yvonne Marinus - Exploring the plural 'frame of body': how Anne Boyer's <i>The Undying</i> (2019) employs sensory diction to connect bodily discomfort to sense making Lara Morello - The relevance of being visible. Exploring the representation of the body through the audio description of the Italian Tv series <i>Prisma</i> (2022) Larisa van Rijn - Supercybercrip: cyborgism and disability in <i>Cyberpunk 2077</i> <p><i>Imperial and Colonial Bodies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth Bryant - Spoils of Whales: Commodifying Nature in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Arctic Genre Scenes Bryony Harris - Centralising contagion: state-building, disease control and bodily autonomy in Mehmed Ali's Egypt (1831-1848) Hilary Spiteri - Between Empire and Tradition: The Body as a Site of Artistic Practice in Malta's Colonial Era 	<p>Belle van Zuylenzaal</p> <p>Kanunnikenzaal</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Zaal 1636

	<p><i>Constructing Bodies across Media</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber Helmes - It's (Not) Just You; The Lonely Female Body in Contemporary Literary Fiction • Ariel Rabkin-Meyer - Klingon Terror, Human Trauma: Embodied Islamophobia in <i>Star Trek: Discovery</i> • Rudy Henke Brands - How Can I Glow Up? The Feminine Body as a Project on TikTok and the Politics of Individualized Preoccupation • Bo Davids - Blood, Milk and Tears: The Construction of the Female Body in the hagiographical writing of James of Vitry and Thomas of Cantimpré 	Kanunnikenzaal
15:25-15:40	<i>Coffee break</i>	Zaal 1636
15:40-16:25	<p>Parallel Sessions 5</p> <p><i>Sites of Expression and Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roos Ledeboer, Victoria Reshetnikova, Roy Hessels, Aoju Chen - Do Multimodal Cues Compensate for Manual Gesture Restrictions in Infant-Directed Communication? • Mireille E. Cornelis - The Spontaneous Stance: Karel Appel and the Act of Painting • Harriet Boateng Aduako - Empowered Identities: The Role Of Priestess Okomfo Akosua Atuobua In Kwahu Spirituality <p><i>Sex and Sexuality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christl de Kloe - 'Unlock Your Orgasm' Sexual pleasure and orgasm in femtech • Priyanka Jha - Shame On You, But Who's Under You? or On How to Have An Erotic Encounter With Shame • Elle Zwinkels - Poor, Unfortunate Females! Interrogating through Androphonia 	<p>Belle van Zuylenzaal</p> <p>Kanunnikenzaal</p>
16:25-16:35	<i>Room change</i>	
16:35-17:00	<i>Closing Plenary</i>	Zaal 1636
17:00-18:00	<i>Borrel</i>	Zaal 1636