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	Conference registration opens	Zaal 1636
	Coffee & Tea	
9:30-10:30	Keynote Dr. Willemijn Ruberg - Historicizing the right to bodily	Aula
	autonomy	
10:30-10:40	Room change	
10:40-11:25	Parallel Sessions 1	
	Becoming Posthuman Bodies	Belle van
	Jonathan Kirn - Performing More-than-Human	Zuylenzaal
	Bodies. Blurring Boundaries in BVDS' Song of Songs.	
	Nienke Draaisma - Don't Be Silent About the Casaburana A Navy Litarary Materialist	
	Goosebumps: A New Literary Materialist Reading of <i>The Song of the Stork</i> (2022) and	
	Dromedary (2026)	

	 Biancamaria Gotti - Becoming Immortal by Becoming Posthuman: Transhumanism, Mindcloning, and the Misconception of the Self Bodies in Protest 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	Coffee break	Zaal 1636
11:45-12:30	 Parallel Sessions 2 Disability and sense-making Yvonne Marinus - Exploring the plural 'frame of body': how Anne Boyer's The Undying (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 Prisma (2022) Larisa van Rijn - Supercybercrip: cyborgism and disability in Cyberpunk 2077 	Belle van Zuylenzaal
	 Ruth Bryant - Spoils of Whales: Commodifying Nature in Seventeenth- Century Dutch Artic 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 	Kanunnikenzaal
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Zaal 1636

13:30-14:15	Parallel Sessions 3	
13:30-14:15	 Parallel Sessions 3 Gender Performativity Ayantika Majumdar - Trans Performance Art and the politics of bodily non-normativity Maaike Weitering - Something Off My Chest: Queer Sensibilities of Clothing, Gender, and the Body Brianah Lee, Giulia Speca, and Celis Tittse - The body in art and performance, Renaissance Art, Visual AI, Gender Bodies in Grief and Loss Jula Gommeran - White Wedding Giada Quaranta - Walking Through a 	Belle van Zuylenzaal Kanunnikenzaal
14:15-14:25	Landscape of Loss: The Body and Grief in Maria Ardizzi's Work • Jenny Chan - Microtemporality and bodily materiality of mourning in 3D scanning – A case study of Hsu Che-yu's Three Episodes of Mourning Exercises Room change	
14:25-15:25	Parallel Sessions 4	
	 Viola Ruggieri - Embodied Knowledge and Affect in Childbirth: Birth Justice to Reclaim Bodily Autonomy Christina Chiotaki - Workers or Victims? Anti-Trafficking Campaigns as the Moral gatekeepers of Feminised Labour Suzie Toumeh - The Body in Documentaries of Displacement: For Sama (2019) and The Cave (2019) Stepan Lastuvka - Framing social reproduction under the neoliberal platform economy: outsourced content moderation in the discursive context of Daniel Motaung's case 	Belle van Zuylenzaal

	Constructing Bodies across Media	Kanunnikenzaal
	 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 Star Trek: Discovery 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 	
15:25-15:40	Coffee break	Zaal 1636
15:40-16:25	Parallel Sessions 5 Sites of Expression and Communication 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 Sex and Sexuality Christl de Kloe - 'Unlock Your Orgasm' Sexual pleasure and orgasm in femtech Priyanka Jha - Shame On You, But Who's Under You? od On How to Have An Erotic Encounter With Shame Elle Zwinkels - Poor, Unfortunate Females! Interrogating through Androphonia	Belle van Zuylenzaal Kanunnikenzaal
16:25-16:35	Room change	70011000
16:35-17:00	Closing Plenary	Zaal 1636
17:00-18:00	Borrel	Zaal 1636