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

	<ul> <li>Biancamaria Gotti - Becoming Immortal by Becoming Posthuman: Transhumanism, Mindcloning, and the Misconception of the Self</li> <li>Bodies in Protest</li> <li>Negar Asgharifard - The female biopolitical body: gendered state violence during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests in Iran</li> <li>Kimberly Lee - Embodied Resistance: The Human Body and Protest Art in Hong Kong's Street Movements</li> <li>Yasaman Bathaee - Exploring identity and resistance in contemporary Iranian art</li> </ul>	Kanunnikenzaal
11.25-11.45	Coffee break	Zaal 1636
11:45-12:30	<ul> <li>Parallel Sessions 2</li> <li>Disability and sense-making</li> <li>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</li> <li>Lara Morello - The relevance of being visible. Exploring the representation of the body through the audio description of the Italian Tv series Prisma (2022)</li> <li>Larisa van Rijn - Supercybercrip: cyborgism and disability in Cyberpunk 2077</li> </ul>	Belle van Zuylenzaal
	<ul> <li>Imperial and Colonial Bodies</li> <li>Ruth Bryant - Spoils of Whales: Commodifying Nature in Seventeenth- Century Dutch Artic Genre Scenes</li> <li>Bryony Harris - Centralising contagion: state- building, disease control and bodily autonomy in Mehmed Ali's Egypt (1831-1848)</li> <li>Hilary Spiteri - Between Empire and Tradition: The Body as a Site of Artistic Practice in Malta's Colonial Era</li> </ul>	Kanunnikenzaal
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Zaal 1636

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

	Constructing Bodies across Media	Kanunnikenzaal
		Randinikonzudi
	Amber Helmes - It's (Not) Just You; The Lonely	
	Female Body in Contemporary Literary Fiction	
	<ul> <li>Ariel Rabkin-Meyer - Klingon Terror, Human</li> </ul>	
	Trauma: Embodied Islamophobia in <i>Star Trek:</i> <i>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	
15:25-15:40	Coffee break	Zaal 1636
15:40-16:25	Parallel Sessions 5	
	Sites of Expression and Communication	Belle van
	Roos Ledeboer - Do Multimodal Cues	Zuylenzaal
	Compensate for Manual Gesture Restrictions	
	in Infant-Directed Communication?	
	Mireille E. Cornelis - The Spontaneous     Stange: Kerel Appel and the Act of Bainting	
	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	Kanunnikenzaal
	Christl de Kloe - 'Unlock Your Orgasm' Sexual	Nahuhhkehzadi
	pleasure and orgasm in femtech	
	<ul> <li>Priyanka Jha - Shame On You, But Who's</li> </ul>	
	Under You? od On How to Have An Erotic	
	Encounter With Shame	
	Elle Zwinkels - Poor, Unfortunate Females!	
	Interrogating through Androphonia	
16:25-16:35	Room change	
16:35-17:00	Closing Plenary	Zaal 1636
17:00-18:00	Borrel	Zaal 1636