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	Aula
	Dr. Willemijn Ruberg - Historicizing the right to bodily autonomy	
	Chair: Folkert de Vries	
10.30-10.40	Room change	
10.40-11.25	Parallel Sessions 1	
	Becoming Posthuman Bodies	Belle van
	Chair: Sorcha Ní Bhraonáin	Zuylenzaal
	 Jonathan Kirn - Performing More-than-Human Bodies. Blurring Boundaries in BVDS' Song of Songs. Nienke Draaisma - Don't Be Silent About the Goosebumps: A New Literary Materialist Reading of The Song of the Stork (2022) and Dromedary (2026) 	

	 Biancamaria Gotti - Becoming Immortal by Becoming Posthuman: Transhumanism, Mindcloning, and the Misconception of the Self Bodies in Protest Chair: Yowali Kabamba 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 - Hair, Materiality, and 	Kanunnikenzaal
11.25-11.45	Resistance in the Work of Nasim Moghadam Coffee break	Zaal 1636
11.45-12.30	Parallel Sessions 2	
	 Disability and sense-making Chair: August Christensen 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
	 Imperial and Colonial Bodies Chair: Dorian Hagedoorn Ruth Bryant - Spoils of Whales: Commodifying Nature in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Arctic Genre Scenes Bryony Harris - Disease control and bodily autonomy in Mehmed Ali's Egypt (1831-1843) 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	
	Gender Performativity	Belle van
	Chair: Yowali Kabamba	Zuylenzaal
	 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 Al, Gender 	
	Illness, Loss and the Body	Kanunnikenzaal
	Chair: Sorcha Ní Bhraonáin	
	 Giada Quaranta - Walking Through a Landscape of Loss: The Body and Grief in Maria Ardizzi's Work Ohad Ben Shimon - A Living Community: Theorizing Immunity from the Autoimmune White Wedding: Marrying the conventional symbolisms of lace to the 2000s beauty standards for the female body 	
14.15-14.25	Room change	
14.25-15.25	Parallel Sessions 4	
	Bodily Autonomy and Labour	Belle van
	Chair: Camila Malig	Zuylenzaal
	 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 and The Cave Stepan Lastuvka - Framing social reproduction under the neoliberal platform economy: outsourced content moderation in the discursive context of Daniel Motaung's case 	

	Constructing Bodies across Media	Kanunnikenzaal
	Chair: Dorian Hagedoorn	
	 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	Belle van
	Chair: Iris Krips	Zuylenzaal
	 Roos Ledeboer - 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	
	Chair: Camila Malig	Kanunnikenzaal
	 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 	
16.25-16.35	Room change	
16.35-18:00	Closing remarks & Borrel	Zaal 1636