

# Quality Non-Fiction from Holland

**N**ederlands  
letterenfonds  
dutch foundation  
for literature

Spring 2019

# Dutch Foundation for Literature

**The Dutch Foundation for Literature has the task of supporting writers and translators, and of promoting Dutch literature abroad. It is an independent organization, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.**

The Foundation's advisors on literary fiction, quality non-fiction, poetry and children's and youth literature are present each year at prominent book fairs, including Frankfurt, London, Beijing and Bologna. *Books from Holland*, *Quality Non-Fiction from Holland* and *Children's Books from Holland* recommend highlights from each category's selection.

## Translation Grants

Foreign publishers wishing to publish a translation of Dutch or Frisian literature may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. Having acquired the rights, the publisher's application must be accompanied by a copy of the contract with the rights owner and a copy of the contract with the translator. Application forms are available from the Foundation's website. Subsidies are paid after receipt of complimentary copies, with printed acknowledgement of the Foundation's support. A sample translation may be required and evaluated by our external advisors. Applications for translations that have already been published cannot be taken into consideration. Publishers looking for a qualified translator can request a list of endorsed translators for their language area.

## Illustrated Books

In the case of illustrated children's books and/or graphic novels, foreign publishers can apply for assistance to cover a portion of the production costs.

## Promotional Travel

The Foundation is able to support a publisher wishing to invite an author for interviews or public appearances. Literary festivals are likewise eligible for support. Additionally, the Foundation organises international literary events in co-operation with local publishers, festivals and book fairs.

## Writers-in-Residence

The Foundation coordinates writer-in-residence programmes together with foreign universities and institutions. International authors are invited to spend time working in Amsterdam. They may stay one or two months at the writers' lodgings above the Athenaeum Bookshop on the Spui.

## International Visitors Programme

The visitors programme and the annual Amsterdam Fellowships offer publishers and editors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the publishing business and the literary infrastructure of the Netherlands.

## Translators' House

The Translators' House offers translators the opportunity to live and work in Amsterdam for a period of time. It is involved with numerous activities assisting and advancing translators' skills. Each year the Literary Translation Days are held for those translating into and from Dutch.

## Schwob: Discovering International Classic Works of Fiction

Schwob draws attention to and supports as-yet undiscovered, untranslated classics of world literature. Each month the editors select new titles on [www.schwob.nl](http://www.schwob.nl).

## Dutch Foundation for Literature

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## Non-Fiction



**Mireille Berman**  
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## Fiction

Barbara den Ouden  
Eastern and Middle Europe,  
Mediterranean countries, Russia  
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Victor Schiferli  
Scandinavia, Germany,  
English-language countries  
and poetry  
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Tiziano Perez  
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Alexandra Koch  
Schwob  
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## Children's Books

Agnes Vogt  
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## See also

[en.letterenfonds.nl](http://en.letterenfonds.nl)

## Sjeng Scheijen

### The Avant-Gardists

#### *The Russian Revolution in Art, 1917–1935*

The clash between the Soviet state and the Avant-garde artists

**The first book to describe in full the history of the complex relationship between a group of leading avant-garde artists and the Soviet state. Related from the personal perspective of the artists, it is part group biography, part cultural history. The result is a quintessentially twentieth-century tale about the rise and fall of a small number of extraordinary talented people trying to navigate the political turmoil of a new state.**

In April 1918, just five months after the Russian Revolution, Kazimir Malevich, Marc Chagall, Wassily Kandinsky and Vladimir Tatlin became powerful officials within the new 'People's Commissariat of Enlightenment'. The old regime had rejected these notorious figures, who in the years before the revolution, had established themselves as the most innovative artists in Europe. Now they were assigned to transform entire inner cities with their murals, posters, installations and performances. Setting up modern art museums across the country, they dispatched their radical, often abstract artworks to the remotest regions. They rigorously reformed art academies, developing new pedagogical systems that would influence the Bauhaus and other major new art institutions.

Tatlin presented his pioneering installation, the Monument to the IIIrd International; Malevich his series of White on White paintings, works of daring originality.

But less than a year later, opposition to the avant-gardists rose. Once the Bolsheviks grasped the groundbreaking eccentricity of their ideas, they branded the artists charlatans who 'infuse[d] decayed poison into the healthy nature of the proletariat'. The avant-gardists' aim of bringing 'Art into Life' was not in line with the Bolshevik interpretation of a revolutionary culture. The new rulers, instead, wanted to use art as a tool for entertainment and propaganda of the masses. Before long, the avant-gardists were ejected from their powerful positions. Chagall and Kandinsky emigrated, Malevich was imprisoned. Those who stayed desperately tried to maintain their former standing. Some adapted to the demands of the new system, some tried to preserve a small haven of artistic freedom, but ultimately all were marginalized.

Sjeng Scheijen calls on an unprecedented number of often unpublished letters, diaries, and remembrances (often from inaccessible Russian archives or libraries) to produce a vibrant, touching portrayal of these phenomenal artists.



**Sjeng Scheijen** (b. 1972) is a Slavist and a specialist on Russian art. He was cultural attaché at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Moscow (2007–2009), and artistic director of the year Russia - Netherlands in 2012. He is the author of the widely-acclaimed biography *Diaghilev, A Life* (translated into English by Jane Hedley-Prole and Steve Leinbach) which was published in six languages and hailed almost unanimously as the definitive life of Diaghilev. It sold more than 45,000 copies.

#### Publishing details

*De Avant-gardisten. De Russische Revolutie in de kunst 1917–1935* (March 2019)  
500 pp.  
Publisher: Prometheus  
English sample translation available

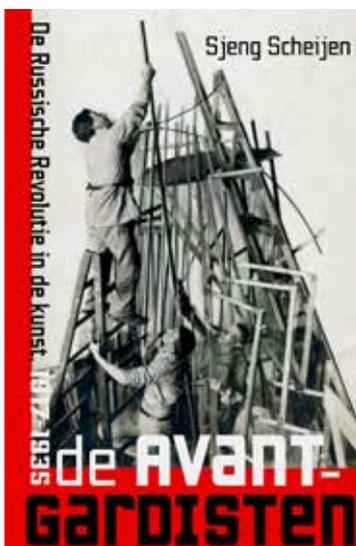
#### Rights

Nurnberg Agency  
Marei Pittner  
mpittner@nurnberg.co.uk

#### Rights sold

Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)

Photo: Alexander Sedelnikov



#### About *Diaghilev: A Life*

'Scheijen masterfully recounts the phenomenal way in which Diaghilev contrived, under virtually impossible circumstances, to nurture a sequence of works [...] he triumphs in making clear the degree to which, despite the cosmopolitanism of so much of the work, Russia was at the core of Diaghilev.'

– *The Guardian*

'The parade of great dancers, composers, and artists through Diaghilev's life give this book the sweep of a Russian novel with a fascinating, brilliant, and complex protagonist who, according to the author, lived a very public life, but kept his most intimate feelings hidden.'

– *Publishers Weekly*

## Karwan Fatah-Black

### Paths through Slavery

### *The History of Slavery and Emancipation in Suriname*

A unique perspective on the history of slavery

**In *Paths through Slavery*, Karwan Fatah-Black definitively reorients our understanding of slavery and emancipation in Suriname by drawing our attention to the edges of the bustling port city of Paramaribo during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

It was there that a small but growing community of freed slaves, living in a semi-clandestine world, would ultimately lay the foundations for what became modern Suriname. Until now, historians have often focused on the lives of slaves and their owners on the plantations, as well as their ongoing conflicts with the Marrons, the ex-slaves who had fled into the jungle. Slavery's contours in the colonial city have largely been overlooked. Drawing on archived personal documents, Fatah-Black colourfully unveils a world where owners, slaves, ex-slaves and foreign sailors from across the globe, regularly intermingled and traded what they could – where those who owned property and those who were property were difficult to distinguish.

Initially composed mostly of women who had borne their owner's children, as well as ex-soldiers drafted to fight the Marrons and recapture runaway

slaves, this freed community has largely been cast by Surinamese historians as collaborators for achieving freedom within a racist system.

Fatah-Black seeks to set the record straight: those who did find their way to freedom and to the city were able to amass property and together buy the freedom of family members and friends. Though rare, 'manumission' (the freeing of slaves) formed an essential aspect of slavery around the world by affording a sense of humanity to slaveholders and hope for those still enslaved. It would play a key role in Suriname. On the eve of slavery's abolition in Suriname in 1863, the free non-white community had grown to almost half the number of those still enslaved.

What were the obstacles and challenges faced by a community living on the peripheries of accepted society? How did the issues faced by these freed slaves anticipate life in Suriname after slavery's abolition in 1863? How did they pave the way for that emancipation?

*Paths through Slavery* is an indispensable contribution to the discourse surrounding the international slave trade history as well as our understanding of modern Suriname.



**Karwan Fatah-Black** (b. 1981) studied history at the University of Amsterdam and received his doctorate from the University of Leiden in 2013. He specialised in the early-modern history of Suriname and the slave trade. In 2016 the KNAW granted him the prestigious Young Scientists Award for Historical Science for his research on Dutch trans-atlantic trade, in particular the slave trade.

#### Publishing details

*Eigendomsstrijd. De geschiedenis van slavernij en emancipatie in Suriname* (2018)

223 pp.

Publisher: Ambo Anthos

English sample translation available

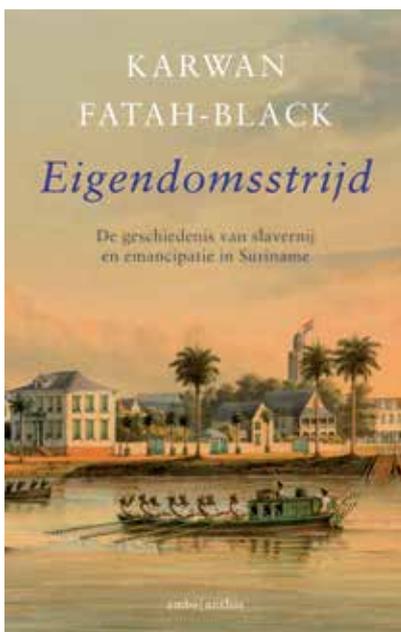
#### Rights

Ambo Anthos

Orli Naamani

onaamani@amboanthos.nl

Photo: Juliën van Eck



*'Paths through Slavery* presents a fine addition to the historiography of slavery.'

- de Volkskrant

*'A wonderful book that shines a new light on the history of slavery and its legacy.'*

- Nieuwwij.nl

Thomas Rueb

Laura H.

*The Caliphate Girl from Zoetermeer*

All the way to the Islamic State caliphate – and back

**In the summer of 2016, near to IS's self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq, a young Dutch woman was found running through the desert, two small children in her arms. Her name was Laura, she was twenty years old and had escaped after a year's captivity. She was crying. She wanted to go home.**

In a desperate attempt to save her, her father had set up a rescue mission with the help of a shady network of mercenaries. But when Laura arrived back at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands, she was arrested. The Dutch Public Prosecution Service believed IS had sent her to commit an act of terror. And so Laura from Zoetermeer became 'Laura H.' – the way the Dutch press label criminals, by first name and the initial of their last name – held at the terrorist detention facility in Vught. She was the first Dutch woman to return from the caliphate and found herself in the eye of a media storm.

Journalist Thomas Rueb was compelled to investigate what had made a young

mother travel to the caliphate. This story of a vulnerable girl who fell in love with a handsome Jihadi and was radicalized, sheds light on why anyone might decide to support the greatest threat to world peace in the past decade. When talking to Rueb, Laura proved a fearless, open storyteller with an eye for detail, willing to share her experiences with an outsider. Rueb's conversations with her were largely recorded in her childhood bedroom in Zoetermeer, as she lay on the bed, sometimes holding one leg in the air to recharge the electronic tag around her ankle. Rueb also interviewed her family, friends, the police officers involved, and had access to WhatsApp and Facebook conversations, diary entries, e-mails and other messages, police files and psychological examinations.

*Laura H.* isn't the first book on the IS, but never before has such a disconcerting and detailed report on the hopelessness of life inside the Caliphate been published. First and foremost, it is the personal story of the dramatic unravelling of a teenager's life.



**Thomas Rueb** (b. 1986) works as a reporter for the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*. In 2017, he won the Tegel Readers' Award, the most prestigious prize in Dutch journalism.

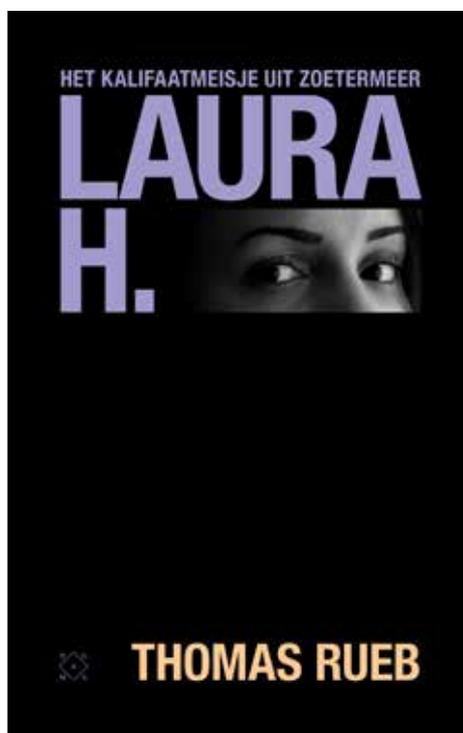
**Publishing details**

*Laura H. Het kalifaatmeisje uit Zoetermeer* (2018)  
508 pp., 146,000 words  
Publisher: Das Mag  
10,000 copies sold  
English sample translation available

**Rights**

Cossee  
Stella Rieck  
rieck@cossee.com

Photo: Willemieke Kars



**'An eye-opening, surprising and frightening book that reads as a thriller.'**  
– *Panorama*

**'In many ways a unique book, a story that is so bizarre that it is often hard to believe, and the best that has been written on this subject. Extraordinarily well written.'**  
– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

**'Rueb combines a delicate sense of observation with a good pen and an idiosyncratic narration style.'**  
– *Trouw*

## Lynn Berger

### Second Thoughts

#### *Reflections on Having and Being a Second Child*

‘Second place, consolation prize, pipped-at-the-post.’

**Remember your first time? Chances are you’ve forgotten all about your second. When it comes to second times, we’re often left with very little to say, as Lynn Berger realised when she became pregnant with her second child. There is a surfeit of books on early parenthood and the arrival of your first child, but books on a second child are hard to find. A curious omission, especially since two-child families are still the norm in most Western countries.**

What is it like to have a child when you already have one? What are the effects on the first child of getting a new brother or sister? And what does being the second signify in a world that revolves around novelty and coming first? *Second Thoughts: Reflections on Having and Being a Second Child* is a fascinating quest, driven by that one burning desire: the desire to better understand the second child, and the second time. The arrival of a second child is nearly always less momentous and memorable, and the second in line never receives the exclusivity the first has enjoyed.

Berger explores the historical differences in the relationship between the

oldest and younger siblings, changes in the family (the difference between being three or four), the advantages and disadvantages of comparing siblings, the effects of birth order on your personality, stories of jealousy and rivalry; the division of time and care between parents and the role of gender in this. Philosophical aspects are also addressed: how is time spent with children experienced? And attention is paid to demography: the arrival of a second child is connected to economic circumstances, social provisions and even the climate.

Lynn Berger’s style is literary, poetic, but transparent. She writes lovingly on family life without becoming saccharine and has a good eye for the joyous but grueling years with small children. Inspired by writers like Rachel Cusk, Lydia Davis and Valeria Luiselli, this essay combines sibling science with memoir and reflections on parenthood, drawing on insights from psychology, biology, neuroscience and demographics as well as conventional wisdom. A must-read for any future or present second time parents, and for second children themselves.



**Lynn Berger** (b. 1984) received her PhD from Columbia University in 2016; her dissertation examined photography as a new technology and a new profession in the nineteenth-century United States. Her essays and reportages on art, literature, technology and photography have appeared in first-rate publications in the Netherlands. For *De Correspondent* she frequently writes about metaphor, cliché, ‘cultural keywords’, and the ways in which language influences our perception of the world around us.

#### Publishing details

*De tweede. Over het zijn en krijgen van een tweede kind* (2019)

192 pp.

Publisher: De Correspondent  
English sample translation available

#### Rights

Janklow & Nesbit  
Zoe Nelson  
znelson@janklow.co.uk

Photo: Judith van IJken



#### Advance praise for *Second Thoughts*:

‘Once again, Lynn Berger proves herself to be the toughest thinker on the softest subjects.’  
– Marja Pruis, journalist

‘An original and surprising book that manages to be moving without being sentimental.’  
– Niña Weijers, author of *The Consequences*

## Linda Polman

# Nobody Wants Them

## Europe and Its Refugees

Europe's war against migrants

**In the summer of 1938 in the French spa town of Evian, the leaders of Europe convened for what was to be the first international summit on a European refugee crisis. The number of Jews attempting to flee Nazi-Germany had skyrocketed and refugee centres were urgently needed. Representatives from all of Western Europe attended, and their arguments against taking in those refugees sound only too familiar to us today: their cultures would be endangered, their jobs and houses would be snatched, and the cohesion of their societies would ultimately disintegrate.**

The only thing the conference did manage to produce was contempt for Nazi-Germany. While they critiqued Germany's human rights violations, not one of these 'civilised' countries expressed any willingness to actually save the Jews. In Germany, when the attendees had returned home, a newspaper headline triumphantly declared: 'Nobody wants them'.

How has Europe's strategy regarding the 'War on Migration' changed since 1938? In *Nobody Wants Them*, investigative journalist Linda Polman takes her readers on a journey through time, from the refugee

camp of Western Europe set up for Iron Curtain refugees fleeing communist dictators after the Second World War, to the not very 'safe zones', such as those meant to protect refugees in Srebrenica in the 1990s, to the UN Refugee Agency's mega-camps in Africa today. She sketches Europe's tight grip on the UNHCR, an organisation that is supposed to protect the rights of millions of refugees around the world and yet remains utterly dependent on European donations. The UNHCR, therefore, has no choice but to flow with Europe's political tides.

The journey ends on the Greek island of Lesbos, the epicentre of the greatest European refugee crisis since 1938.

The arrival of a million refugees in Europe was predictable long before it began in 2015, but the European administrations failed to prepare for the event. What followed was chaos, political victories for extreme right-wing parties and Brexit, fought at the expense of these refugees.

Linda Polman investigates what exactly happened to the promise of 'never again' at the foundation of the UN Refugee Convention of 1951. Has Europe, as the UN Human Rights Council bitterly concluded in 2018, indeed 'accepted even death as an effective anti-immigration tool'?



**Linda Polman** (b. 1960) is an investigative journalist based in Amsterdam. She has worked in various war zones and developing countries such as Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Congo and Afghanistan. She is the author of, among other titles, *The Crisis Caravan*, which was translated into nine languages. Polman's work has been discussed internationally, including on John Stewart's *The Daily Show* and in *The New Yorker*. For *Death Row Dollies*, about European women who link their fates to inmates on death row in the US, she spent an extended period in Texas. When in the Netherlands, Polman lectures for university journalism programs.

#### Publishing details

*Niemand wil ze hebben. Europa en zijn vluchtelingen* (February 2019)  
279 pp.

Publisher: Jurgen Maas

English sample translation available

#### Rights

Jurgen Maas

Uitgeverij Jurgen Maas

info@uitgeverijjurgenmaas.nl

Photo: Patricia Hofmeester



#### About *The Crisis Caravan*:

'A testament to the limits of human suffering and of attempts to rescue some humanity.'  
– *Times Literary Supplement*

#### About *We Did Nothing*:

'This book recalls the reportages of Ryszard Kapuscinski and the black humour of Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene's fiction.'  
– *The Guardian*

'One of the finest reporting journalists of the modern age.'  
– *The Evening Standard*

## Arjen Mulder

### As Plants See It

### *A Plea for a Plant-based Planet*

A story of courage and difficult decisions made in the nick of time

**Without plants, animal life on earth cannot exist. Were plants to disappear, the food chains, deprived of oxygen and nutrition, would immediately collapse. And yet they remain a blind spot for the 21st century human.**

If anything, our behaviour today demonstrates a deep ignorance regarding our precarious dependence, while plants in their creative resilience have managed to weather five global extinctions. Now that we face the sixth extinction, at our own hands, who can save us? In *As Plants See It*, biologist, philosopher and essayist Arjen Mulder flips perspectives to see the world as plants do.

Though we both form part of the same life process on Earth, a plant's priorities are radically different from those of a human. Everything that is obvious and important to us, holds little or no importance or even interest to plants. The opposite is also true: that which is unimportant to humans is crucial to plants. Plants could not care less about the evolutionary 'struggle for life'. They survive precisely by working together and creating room for one another. Plants

create life on their own, converting something as elusive as light into food, growing and reproducing with an internal logic at odds with the violent competition animals and humans find themselves entangled in.

In his clear and precise style, Mulder brings us the 'school of plants'. The first and only requisite for admission is the decision that life is worth living. Plants demand that we view the world and human achievements differently, they instruct a solidarity with other living creatures. In order to understand plants as plants do, Mulder argues that we should not be killing them. He aligns himself with the natural philosophers from ancient Greece and argues for a new poetic biology based on protecting life rather than destroying it.

Equally inspired and critical, *As Plants See It* is an inventive treatise that fuses the biological with the philosophical, the personal with the scientific. In it, we see Mulder searching once again for the mystery of life, a journey he described in his award-winning essay collection *What is Life* as: 'Life is what gives us value in a completely indifferent universe. That's where our quest begins and ends.'



**Arjen Mulder** (b. 1955), biologist and essayist, is the author of three essay collections: *Living Systems* (2002), *The Woman for Whom Cesare Pavese Committed Suicide* (2005), and the widely praised *What is Life* (2014). Mulder's works are multi-disciplinary and unconventional, containing insights from biology, media theory, anthropology and literature. In 2016 he published *The Success Shunner* about Swiss thinker Adrien Turel. He lives in Amsterdam and teaches media theory and social semiotics in Rotterdam and Ghent.

#### Publishing details

*Vanuit de plant gezien.*

*Pleidooi voor een plantaardige planeet* (March 2019)

256 pp.

Publisher: De Arbeiderspers

English sample translation available

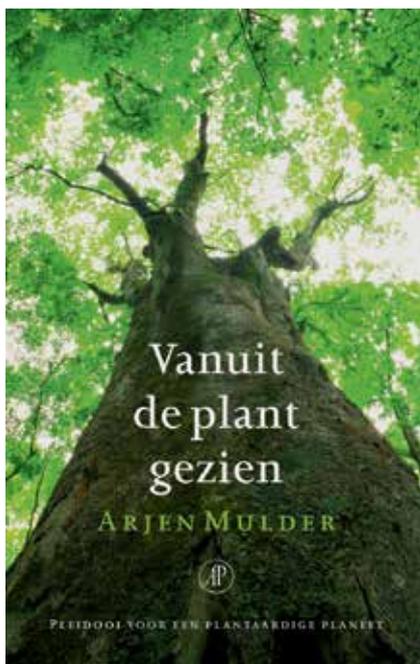
#### Rights

De Arbeiderspers

Jolijn Spooren

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Photo: Koos Breukel



#### About *What is Life*:

'In *What is Life* analytical precision fuses with astonishingly honest and personal essayism.'

- Jury report of the Wijnaendts Franckenprijs 2018

'Mulder's stimulating, often personal essays, come over to the reader as inspirational, a sort of inspirational stimulus to the anxious.'

- *NRC Handelsblad*

## Sanne Blauw

### The Biggest Bestseller of All Time (with This Title) *How Numbers Lead and Mislead Us*

An investigation into the way numbers seduce, influence and mislead us



Numbers are everywhere – they might denote calories, work targets, statistics or the temperature outside – and while they are not as objective as they seem, figures still colour and shape our daily landscape. Econometrist and journalist Sanne Blauw penned this book for people who don't know anything about numbers, yet face them every day in some form or other. Unfortunately, we are inclined to take all these figures presented to us as true, while all too often they are misleading or simply incorrect.

All kinds of things can go wrong with numbers. Prejudices may be hidden within measurement methods, samples might not be representative and connections can be made that are not actually there. And it is exactly these problems that come into play in times of big data and artificial intelligence. Now that the amount of data is so large and the algorithms so precise, we need to start becoming more aware of the finer details and more informed of the pitfalls.

Sometimes the figures are correct, but the context is missing. Threats can

suddenly appear a lot more dramatic. For example, recent research has shown that if you eat processed meat, you have a twenty percent greater chance of developing bowel cancer. Western media sources immediately jumped on this. Newspaper headlines declared 'bacon just as carcinogenic as smoking'. But anyone reading the actual research papers will discover that the chances of getting cancer if you don't eat unprocessed meat are five percent. And if you do eat it, that probability goes up to six percent: a lot less shocking, but in the meantime panic has struck.

Sanne Blauw takes the reader on a journey through history from Florence Nightingale – who was not just a lifesaving nurse but a nineteenth-century queen of infographics – to one of the great revolutions of our time: the rise of algorithms, which, of course, are not as neutral as we would like to believe. With *The Biggest Bestseller of All Time (with This Title)* Sanne Blauw hopes to put numbers back in their place. Not on a pedestal, not in the trash, but where they belong: alongside words.

**Sanne Blauw** (b. 1986) has an MSc in Econometrics and completed her PhD in 2014 with the dissertation 'Well-to-do or Doing Well', on income inequality, trust and happiness. But, she asked herself, can you measure happiness? This question launched her career in journalism. She became Numeracy Correspondent for *De Correspondent*, with one goal: to unveil the bizarre influence of numbers on our lives. Sanne Blauw has also given a TEDx Talk on how to deal with misleading numbers in the news. What should you do when you meet a poll in the wild? How do you tame a graph? And how can you keep from drowning in a flood of misleading statistics?

#### Publishing details

*Het bestverkochte boek ooit (met deze titel). Hoe cijfers ons leiden, verleiden en misleiden* (2018)  
208 pp.

Publisher: De Correspondent  
16,000 copies sold  
English sample translation available

#### Rights

Janklow & Nesbit  
Zoe Nelson  
znelson@janklow.co.uk

#### Rights sold

UK (Sceptre), Germany (DVA) and Lebanon (Arab Scientific)

Photo: Lise Straatsma



'Fortunately, Blauw makes her book interesting and applicable to everyone, even if you don't have much affinity with figures – because everyone could use a crash course in numbers.'  
– *New Scientist*

'Food for thought.'  
– *Elsevier*

'Although they are not as objective as they seem, figures do determine what our life looks like.'  
– *de Volkskrant*

**Rens Bod**

## A World Full of Patterns *The History of Knowledge-Making*

A history of human knowledge and how we acquire it

**The idea that the world can be understood through patterns and the principles that govern them is one of the most important human insights and may be our greatest survival strategy. Our search for patterns and principles, and the systematic knowledge they form, began at least 40,000 years ago when striped patterns were engraved on mammoth's bones.**

Since then, which roads has human knowledge wandered to develop into today's scientific understanding of nature and culture? Which detours and dead ends? In a work of unprecedented scope, Rens Bod removes the Western natural sciences from their often-central role to bring us the first global history of human knowledge. Having sketched the history of the humanities in his acclaimed and ground-breaking *A New History of the Humanities*, Bod now adopts a broader perspective, stepping beyond classical antiquity, back to the Stone Age in order to answer the question: where did our knowledge of the world today begin and how did it develop?

His approach is poly-centric and multi-disciplinary, drawing on simultaneous developments in all five corners of the

inhabited world. Focusing on ten disciplines – astronomy, mathematics, mechanics, medicine, linguistics, historiography, music, philology, law and art theory – he examines to what degree their progressions and protagonists can be considered interwoven with one another and to what degree we can speak of global trends.

Building on his previous book, at times amending it with new findings, *A World Full of Patterns* will offer startling connections to a wide audience. Bod reveals that inoculation was invented in China rather than Europe; that many of the fundamental aspects of mathematics and astronomy were in fact first discovered by the Indian Kerala-school (and only later by figures like Leibniz and Pascal); and that our approaches to law provided fundamental models for astronomy and linguistics from Roman to Ottoman times – to name but a few.

In this vital and pioneering work, Bod fulfils what he sees as the historian's responsibility: he preserves and grants us access to history's goldmine of ideas. His prose brims with enthusiasm as he flies across continents and eras. The result is an enlightening, joyful symphony, a stirring chorus of human inquisitiveness extending throughout the ages.



**Rens Bod** (b. 1965) is professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Amsterdam and president of the international Society for the History of Humanities. His previous book *A New History of the Humanities. The Search for Principles and Patterns from Antiquity to the Present* (Oxford University Press) was translated into seven languages and awarded numerous prizes.

### Publishing details

*Een wereld vol patronen.*

*De geschiedenis van kennis* (2019)  
488 pp.

Publisher: Prometheus

English sample translation available

### Rights

English world rights:

Rens Bod via [rens.bod@gmail.com](mailto:rens.bod@gmail.com)

All other rights:

Prometheus

Ronit Palache

[r.palache@pbo.nl](mailto:r.palache@pbo.nl)

Photo: Bob Bronshoff



### About *A New History of the Humanities*

**'An extraordinarily ambitious undertaking [...]. What Bod has written is not just a 'new' history. It is the first ever history of its kind.'**

– *The Times Literary Supplement*

**'A *New History of the Humanities* is based on a wealth of historical material, presented with a profundity and comprehensiveness that until recently were virtually inconceivable.'**

– *NRC Handelsblad*

**'Bod succeeds in surprising us with his original interpretations and astonishing erudition. An extraordinarily impressive performance.'**

– *Trouw*

Lieke Marsman

## The Following Scan Will Last Five Minutes *On the Meaning and Consequences of Illness in our Society*

An exhilarating encounter between poetry and the essay form

**In *The Following Scan Will Last Five Minutes* Lieke Marsman investigates through ten poems and an essay how a sick body relates to a sick world. ‘My little cancer book’ Marsman called it on Twitter.**

But this essay is not just about being ill, it also delves deep into political issues that become personal. The book is a light-footed rally against populism, against facile political assumptions about informal care and about the consequences of being ill.

At first, twenty-seven-year-old Lieke Marsman’s shoulder pain was diagnosed as a repetitive strain injury, she was a writer after all. But when the pain finally became unbearable, scans revealed a malignant tumour: a rare form of cartilage cancer not usually found in younger people. Behind her right shoulder blade was a lump the size of a grapefruit. Marsman went under the knife a week later. Tumour removed, cancer gone, problem solved – except that her existence had been turned upside down. She decided to write down her thoughts and observations in order to give shape to the chaos she was caught up in.

Audre Lorde’s *The Cancer Journals* and *Illness as Metaphor* by Susan Sontag provided inspiration. In addition to accounts of their personal experiences, both books provide an analysis of the status of cancer and cancer patients in society, an approach Marsman also adopts.

*The Following Scan Will Last Five Minutes* is not merely introspective, it is also a plea to look around and assume one’s social responsibility in a sick society. This essay is about much more than just a young woman struggling with cancer, it addresses the meaning and consequences of illness in our modern neoliberal society.

‘I had already inserted myself into the common narrative of an overworked twenty-something-year-old. Successful career, hectic social life, high ambitions – aren’t these the signs of an impending burn-out? ... Further tests were necessary, said the neurologist, but mine was not an urgent case. The waiting list for an MRI scan was about two months long, and I should prepare myself for the likelihood that nothing would be found.’  
(trs Sophie Collins)



**Lieke Marsman** (b. 1990) is one of the leading young talents in Dutch literature. Her unique style combines prose, poetry and essay genres. After her acclaimed debut poetry collection in 2010, she was considered a prodigy by many. Her first novel, *The Opposite of a Human Being*, published in 2017, was nominated for the ECI Literature Prize. It is an engaged, hybrid book in which essay and poetry are interwoven to highlight the problems of climate change.

### Publishing details

*De volgende scan duurt vijf minuten* (2018)

64 pp.

Publisher: Pluim

Full English translation available  
(Translation: Sophie Collins)

### Rights

Pluim

Evi Hoste

ehoste@uitgeverijpluim.nl

### Rights sold

UK (Liverpool University Press, Pavilion)

Photo: Simone Peek



‘Ten poems and an essay about cancer, for which Marsman was treated. But it also about so much more: about loneliness, being on benefits, economic sensationalism in culture, and freedom of expression.’  
– *NRC Handelsblad*

‘A very personal text with a high degree of urgency. Every word strikes home.’  
– *Meander magazine*

The press on *The Opposite of a Human Being*:

‘This is a surprisingly playful novel, ideologically relevant, an accumulation of ideas, pessimistic and optimistic, interesting on every page, and despite the style changes, surprisingly consistent.’  
– *De Groene Amsterdammer*

## Menno ter Braak

### National Socialism: Doctrine of Rancour

A classic indictment of populism

In 1937, Dutch critic and essayist Menno ter Braak wrote what today stands as one of the most scathingly perceptive indictments of the Nazi movement. Written for and published by the anti-fascist 'Committee of Vigilance', *National Socialism as a Doctrine of Rancour* expressed his urgent concern for the growing popularity of National Socialism.

Three years later, when the Nazi's invaded the Netherlands, Ter Braak would take his own life. The pamphlet went on to become his most famous work. Using Nietzsche's theory of history as a lens, Ter Braak identified resentment as the inevitable consequence of idealising equality in democratic societies and, as such, the fountainhead of Nazi populism.

According to Ter Braak, humans are never equal in terms of biology and sociology. He goes on to argue that in the democratising process, where equality as an ideal collides with reality people increasingly experience inequality as an injustice, leading them to hate and to envy.

Rather than simply choosing one ideology over others, Ter Braak viewed National Socialism as the fulfilment and perversion of both democracy and socialism, and thereby the pure embodiment of the rancour inherent within the two, and within our culture as a whole. Rancour must be recognised for what it is, as well as where it stems from. And yet, can equality exist without rancour?

In a world in which populist leaders are once again marketing themselves as guardians of democracy, in which political parties are playing to feelings of hatred and anger, the startling parallels and continuing relevance of Ter Braak's lucidly human diagnosis make this essential reading for anyone looking to understand today's political climate. It also presents a word of warning.

In the wake of its renewed importance for thinkers and the public debate, renowned publisher Van Oorschot has reissued a new edition.



**Menno ter Braak** (1902–1940) was a Dutch critic whose shrewd intellect and challenging of preciousness in art earned him the title of the 'conscience of Dutch literature'. He was the Netherlands' most important writer, essayist and culture critic during the Interbellum period. Fervently opposed to National Socialism, he took his life upon the German invasion in the spring of 1940, within hours of the surrender. After the Second World War, his work continued to serve as an important point of reference within intellectual circles.

#### Publishing details

Het national-socialisme als rancuneleer (1937, 2019)  
 Publisher: Van Oorschot  
 56 pp.  
 English sample translation available

#### Free of rights

Photo: Letterkundig Museum



'Menno ter Braak stands as one of the most perceptive, anti-authoritarian Dutch intellectuals of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even when there were political risks involved, he stood up for European humanistic values.'  
 – *Humanistische Canon.nl*

'Hitler's rise changed everything for Ter Braak, who'd been an eternal student until then. After 1933, he developed into a politician without a party, one who investigated and rejected the great ideologies.'  
 – *Historisch Nieuwsblad*

# Rembrandt Year 2019

## Four authors on the revered Dutch master

### The roots of Rembrandt's talent

Onno Blom  
**The Young Rembrandt.  
A Biography**

De jonge Rembrandt.  
Een biografie (October 2019)

Rights: De Bezige Bij,  
Marijke Nagtegaal  
m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl  
Rights sold: UK (Pushkin Press)  
English proposal available



We have little more than a handful of stories from his earliest biographers – so who was Rembrandt, really? What secrets lie hidden in his paintings? And what was the city of Leiden like when he grew up? Dutch biographer Onno Blom tells the story of the young Rembrandt in early 17<sup>th</sup>-century Leiden. This book will bring the figure of Rembrandt close to the reader, and will bring to life the full-blooded spirit of the Dutch Golden Age.

### A guide that will teach the reader to see

Wieteke van Zeil  
**Rembrandt. What you  
see is what you are**

Iedereen zijn Rembrandt.  
Wat je ziet ben je zelf (May 2019)

Rights: Atlas Contact, Hayo Deinum  
hdeinum@atlascontact.nl



For three and a half centuries people have been attributing all sorts of meanings to Rembrandt's work. Their perspectives have been dictated by their time and culture. A view on Rembrandt therefore also serves as a mirror to the beholder. How should we look at Rembrandt's work? What does Rembrandt actually tell us through his art, and with which means? What meanings can we draw from his works and how can we look at them today?

In honour of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rembrandt's death, the Netherlands is dedicating 2019 to celebrating Holland's most famous master and the Dutch Golden Age. Rembrandt Year has also prompted a number of authors to call for renewed attention to Rembrandt as an artist, a man and an inspiration.

### Unraveling the myths around Rembrandt

Machiel Bosman  
**Rembrandt's Fall. A history of  
misconceptions and alternative facts**

Rembrandts val.  
Een geschiedenis van misvattingen en  
alternatieve feiten (September 2019)  
Athenaeum – Polak & Van Genneep

Rights: Singel uitgeverijen, Jolijn Spooren  
j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl  
Sample translation available



What the history books tell us about Rembrandt is the product of a game of whispers. Scholars parrot and echo one another, while the image of the artist as he was blurs even further. Our picture of Rembrandt has become cliché. Historian Machiel Bosman dives back into the sources, follows the money and exposes the current historical canon.

### The story behind the creation of one of the most famous paintings in the world

Gabri van Tussenbroek  
**Amsterdam and The Night Watch.  
The men in Rembrandt's  
masterpiece**

Amsterdam en de Nachtwacht.  
De mannen op het meesterwerk  
van Rembrandt (October 2018)

Rights: Prometheus, Ronit Palache  
r.palache@pbo.nl



Painted in 1640, The Night Watch is the highlight of the Gallery of Honour in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. It was around that year that seventeen people took the initiative to commission a portrait by the most important painter of his time. Why did seventeen men decide to allow Rembrandt to immortalise them in his famous painting? Who were they? And what was the city of Amsterdam like when these leading figures were captured with a few brush strokes?

# New & Noteworthy

## Published in the Netherlands

An intrepid journalist shines new light on the Taliban

Bette Dam  
**Searching for the Enemy. The Story of a Terrorist Who Wanted to Be a Friend**

*Op zoek naar de vijand. Het verhaal van een terrorist die een vriend wilde zijn*

Publisher: De Bezige Bij  
 Rights: Marianne Schönbach  
 Literary Agency  
 m.schonbach@schonbach.nl  
 English sample translation available



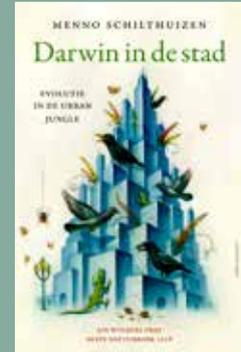
After September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, the Taliban were considered the prime enemy in the war on terror. A fair judgement? Journalist Bette Dam travelled to Afghanistan to unearth the truth about the leader of the Taliban, Mullah Omar. In describing his life, Dam picks apart the manipulative forces behind an image of hostility. She reveals with clinical precision the ways the Taliban were turned into an enemy, the involvement of the media, and the consequences this still has for Afghanistan and the growing threat of terror worldwide.

Evolution in the city

Menno Schilthuizen  
**Darwin Comes to Town. How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution**

*Darwin in de stad. Evolutie in de urban jungle*

Publisher: Atlas Contact  
 Rights: Louisa Pritchard  
 info@louisapritchard.co.uk  
 Rights sold: UK (Quercus Books)  
 Full English translation available



We are marching towards a future in which three-quarters of humans live in cities, and a large portion of the planet's landmass is urbanized. With much of the rest covered by human-shaped farms, pasture, and plantations, where can nature go? To the cities is Menno Schilthuizen's answer in this remarkable book.

'By watching the evolutionary play as it runs in urban theatres, not just wildish ones, Schilthuizen and some colleagues – you might think of them as postmodern biologists, making the best of highly urbanized twenty-first-century landscapes – have noticed that evolution's tempo can be surprisingly brisk.'

– *New York Review of Books*

The power of the Arctic

Bernice Notenboom  
**The Arctic. My Biography of the North Pole**

*Arctica. Mijn biografie van de Noordpool*

Publisher: Prometheus  
 Rights: Prometheus, Ronit Palache  
 r.palache@pbo.nl

For many the Arctic remains an unpopular and obscure place. It is the most mysterious and least examined area in the world, as big as Europe and just as intriguing as a distant planet.

Bernice Notenboom (b. 1962) is a polar traveller, climate journalist and filmmaker who has undertaken three expeditions to the North Pole. She has truly caught the polar bug – a fascination for its breathtaking beauty and silence, for the intense physical experience of travelling in the freezing cold. Notenboom also reports back on the visible effects of global warming.



'Holland's best-known female polar explorer can count on admiration for her toughness and determination.'  
 – *De Volkskrant*

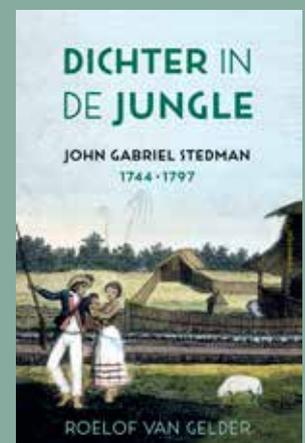
The biography of John Gabriel Stedman

Roelof van Gelder  
**Poet in the Jungle. John Gabriel Stedman 1744 - 1797**

*Dichter in de jungle. John Gabriel Stedman 1744 - 1797 (2018)*

Publishers: Atlas Contact  
 Rights: AtlasContact, Hayo Deinum  
 hdeinum@atlascontact.nl

John Gabriel Stedman was a Scottish-Dutch officer and author of *Narrative of a Five-year Expedition against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam*, published in 1796. It described in detail the terrible treatment plantation owners inflicted on the enslaved. The book very soon became an international success, rendering it an important instrument in the fight against slavery. *Poet in the Jungle* is the well-told life history of this distinguished British-Dutch soldier and noted author.



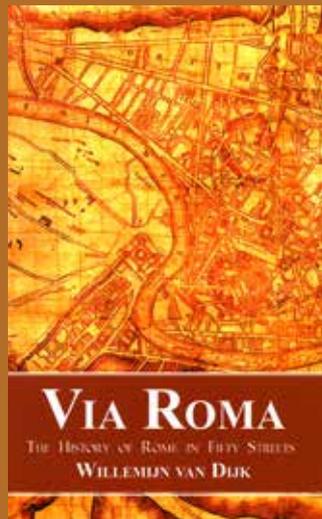
'The exciting life of John Gabriel Stedman is recounted by his biographer with level-headed precision.'  
 – *NRC Handelsblad*

## Recent Translations

This is a selection of recently published translations from the Dutch. For more information please go to our online database of translations [en.vertalingendatabase.nl](http://en.vertalingendatabase.nl).



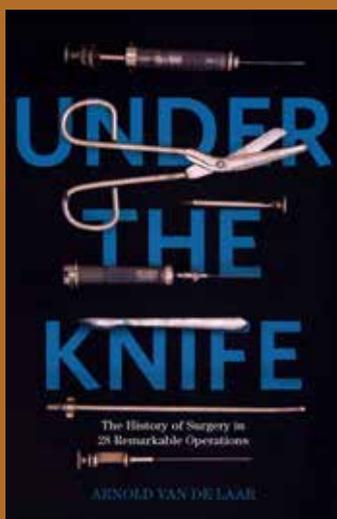
Maarten Hidskes  
**Di Belanda tak seorang pun mempercayai saya** [At Home, Nobody Believes Me]  
*Thuis gelooft niemand mij*  
 Published in Indonesian by Yayasan Pustaka Obor (2018). Translated by Maya Sutedja-Liem, Nurhayu Santoso and Susi Moeiman.



Willemijn van Dijk  
**Via Roma. The history of Rome in fifty streets**  
*Via Roma*  
 Published in English by Baylor University Press (2018). Translated by Robert A. Naborn. Also in German (DVA).



Merlijn Schoonenboom  
**Was ist schön? Wie unser Geschmack sich wandelt**  
*De nimf en de bunny*  
 Published in German by Argobooks (2018). Translated by Marlene Müller-Haas.



Arnold van de Laar  
**Under the Knife. A History of Surgery in 28 remarkable Operations**  
*Onder het mes*  
 Published in English by John Murray (UK) (2018). Translated by Andy Brown. Also in Chinese (United Sky), Czech (Dobrovsk), English (St. Martin's Press, USA), German (Pattloch), Hebrew Tchelet Books, Korean (Eulyoo), Polish (Literackie), Russian (Eksmo), Spanish (Salamandra), Turkish (Koç University Press).



Jan Six  
**Le 'Portrait d'un jeune homme' de Rembrandt**  
*Portret van een jonge man*  
 Published in French by Payot (2018). Translated by Aline Oudoul.



Eva Meijer  
**Mistä valaata laulavat? Eläinten kiehtova kieli** [Animal Languages]  
*Dierentalen*  
 Published in Finnish by Art House (2019). Translated by Mari Janatuinen. Also in Czech (Grada Publishing), English (John Murray), German (Matthes & Seitz), French (Presses de la Cité), Korean (Kachi), Polish (Marginesy), Turkish (Kaplımbaa Books), Swedish (Svante Weyler).

Sjeng Scheijen  
The Avant-Gardists

Karwan Fatah-Black  
Paths through Slavery

Thomas Rueb  
Laura H.

Lynn Berger  
Second Thoughts

Linda Polman  
Nobody Wants Them

Arjen Mulder  
As Plants See It

Sanne Blauw  
The Biggest Bestseller of  
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Rens Bod  
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Lieke Marsman  
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Menno ter Braak  
National Socialism:  
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Kazimir Malevich  
Sportsmen (1930 – 1931)  
© State Russian Museum,  
St. Petersburg

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