



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### HISTORY BEYOND BORDERS

Rotterdam

26-28 August 2021

In August 2021 the Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG) and Erasmus University (EUR) will jointly organize the third edition of the Historians' Days. These three days are packed with lectures, debates and workshops to showcase the diversity and dynamics of historical practice and to promote joint efforts between all historians. A biennial gathering in the broadest sense, the Historians' Days offer a sampling of historical practice and are the perfect opportunity to express your view on topics currently of interest to historians.

#### Who do the Historians' Days serve?

The Historians' Days are open to all historians dealing with the past in their line of work: students, instructors, staff at archives, museums and other heritage institutions, teachers, independent entrepreneurs, researchers and other history professionals. All those interested in history are welcome to participate.

#### Theme

'The entire world is my homeland,' wrote Erasmus in the sixteenth century. 'His' Rotterdam has now expanded into an exceptionally diverse port city, where international connections, 'foreign' influences and innovative approaches figure prominently. *History Beyond Borders* is therefore an appropriate theme for the Historians' Days 2021. This theme also reflects how Rotterdam addresses

Koninklijk Nederlands  
Historisch Genootschap

history: interdisciplinary, transnational and averse to the traditional classification of time periods and other classical labels.

In this edition of the Historians' Days we aim to explore whether borders are necessary for the subject of history. Can we capture our world in national historical canons, without considering global developments? Can a historical narrative be conveyed without taking national frameworks into account? Which unwritten borders are taken for granted so much that they are hardly ever questioned? Do representations from the past irrevocably lead to circumscribed (binary) contrasts, for example relating to heritage, gender and nationality? How could perspectives from other disciplines enrich historical debate? Are certain borders necessary and useful to convey a contemporary historical narrative? Or are borders entirely superfluous in a world where everything and everybody is interconnected?

Discussing borders often instigates heated debates and strong emotions, especially at a time in which (national) borders have once again become important. We warmly invite everybody to share their view and to team up to contemplate the meaning of *History Beyond Borders*.

### **Would you like to join the Historians' Days 2021?**

In this third edition of the Historians' Days the program once again features a broad range of lectures, presentations, workshops and discussions to which you may contribute. If you would like to do so, please submit a proposal for the following sections:

- *Spreading the News Sessions* accommodate individual or group presentations about innovative historical research, as well as sharing new approaches, projects of heritage institutions or practices in teaching history. Applying new digital research and presentation techniques relates to this as well. Conditions for these sessions are a maximum of five speakers (including the moderator) and sufficient opportunity for debate with the participants after the presentations. Duration: one and a half hours.
- *Opinions Without Borders* offers a forum to speakers whose opinions explicitly differ on relevant historical topics. All opinions are to be heard, as long as they derive from historical knowledge. We hope that facilitating the debate will improve understanding of the different opinions about complex historical subjects. Conditions for these sessions are a maximum of five speakers (including the

moderator) and sufficient opportunity for debate with the participants after the presentations. Duration: one and a half hours.

- ***Crossing Border Sessions*** are exactly what the name indicates: sessions that transcend or cross borders. This may be substantive but may also entail presenting in a different format. These sessions are organized simultaneously with the other types of sessions. The objective of ***Crossing Border Sessions*** is to challenge and encourage each other through alternative ways of imparting knowledge. ***Crossing Border Sessions*** may entail the following formats:
  - Brainstorm – submit a (research) idea, question or problem, and participants are invited to brainstorm with you about answers, solutions or (research) questions. Duration: 45 minutes.
  - Storytelling – in this format speakers are invited to convey their research or subject matter creatively, for example as a story or a *spoken word performance*. Duration: maximum one hour. Shorter is fine, in that case different contributions will be combined in one session.
  - Labs – workshops in all kinds of formats and manifestations. Options include Think Digital!, interpreting sources together, discussing new teaching methodologies, introducing a new website, etc. Duration: one and a half hours.
  - Hyde Park Speaker’s Corner – in the tradition of this renowned setting, we are offering Historians’ Days participants a chance to step up onto the soapbox. In a brief speech, addressing a large audience, you talk about your current issue, present your provocative statement, or incite controversy. Duration: the presentation shall not exceed 5-10 minutes, after which the audience shall have another 5-10 minutes to respond. The sessions shall also be recorded and posted on the website to continue the discussion online as well.

The Historians’ Days are designed to convey current events throughout the discipline. The contributions relate to ***History Beyond Borders*** but may also concern matters that transcend this theme. They may be specialized or interdisciplinary and may comprise Dutch and foreign participants alike but will ideally appeal to historians from different professional fields (academia, education, heritage) and those interested in history.

### **Submit a proposal**

Share your expertise, projects and ideas and submit a proposal that does not exceed 500 words to the program committee **before 31 January 2021**. This may be individual or on

behalf of a (working) group or an organization. Young historians are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

For additional information and the rules, see the website [www.historicidagen.nl](http://www.historicidagen.nl).

### Rules

- Maximum of 500 words, listing:
  - o (provisional) title
  - o substantive proposal
  - o type of session
  - o names and organization of the speaker(s)
  - o names and organization of the organizer(s) and the contact information
- Submit **between 1 December 2020 and 31 January 2021**
- Submit individually, as a group or as an institution
- Joint efforts between historians from different backgrounds and perspectives are preferred
- Innovative presentation formats shall receive preference
- Submit only via the site [www.historicidagen.nl/english](http://www.historicidagen.nl/english); unfortunately, proposals sent by e-mail shall not be considered
- All speakers must register as participants and shall also be expected to pay the participation fees (speaker's rate). Organizers are requested to inform participants in their sessions about this as well.

The program committee shall take its decision on the proposals submitted no later than **1 April 2021**.