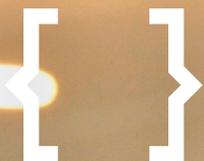


Annual Report 2018



international institute
of social history

If I can't dance to it,
it's not my revolution.
Emma Goldman

IISS
AMSTER

Mission statement

Work and labour relations deeply influence how we live. The International Institute of Social History (IISH) examines how these relations develop globally over time. To conduct this historical research and support other researchers, we collect archives and data from all over the world. Established in 1935, the IISH is one of the world's leading research institutes on social history.



<https://iisg.amsterdam/nl/collecties/verken/projecten/vakbondsverhalen>

Introduction

The year 2018 was dominated by the evaluation of the Institute, but also was a year in which the institute took an important steps in reaching out to society through various projects, such as the launch of the book *Vijf Eeuwen Migratie* and the presentation of the book *Precaire Polder*. Furthermore important research grants were acquired.

Evaluations

How good is the IISH, and what is its role in the Dutch academic system? In 2018 those questions were put to two evaluation commissions. In March the institute was assessed according to the Standard Evaluation Protocol for Dutch universities and research institutes, as is procedure once every six years. The conclusion was unambiguously positive: research quality is excellent, and collection management is coherent and well organized. The inherent social value of the collections and the research programme is enormous. IISH staff appeared highly motivated and satisfied to the commission.

A second evaluation – known as a portfolio analysis – followed in October. The very important question addressed here concerned the ongoing *raison d'être* for the KNAW and NWO institutes as national research institutes. Once again, the IISH received favourable reviews. “Thanks to the combination of scholarly research and the provision of (inter)national access to the collections, the IISH clearly adds value to the national knowledge landscape,” concluded the commission. And: “The IISH collections are internationally renowned, and, within the discipline of social and economic history, the Institute has a leading edge in research. In recent years the institute has been responsive and proactive, both in gathering collections and making them accessible (online) and in adapting the research programme.”

Both commissions also expressed great praise for the collaborative initiative of the IISH, the Huygens Institute for Dutch History and the Meertens

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<https://iisg.amsterdam/nl/node/293>

Institute in the KNAW Humanities Cluster. “This partnership within the HuC increases efficiency and leverage, both in operations and in technical development of infrastructure,” reports the portfolio commission. “The size of the technical department that has resulted from forming the HuC could not be realized by any humanities faculty in the Netherlands. Partnership within the HuC is expected to strengthen all three institutes.”

Outlook

These results are cause for optimism about the future at the IISH. In 2018 we not only looked back but also contemplated the way forward. The Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 will guide our efforts in the years ahead.

In the coming period the IISH is strengthening its position as a *key global player*. To remain at the vanguard, we are devising new courses of action and approaches within the Global Labour History research programme, in which we explore labour relations and compare them to social inequality. A new approach to scholarly collection development will optimally align political, social and technical advances with research needs. Partnerships will grow more important in the years ahead. Infrastructural advances and changes in how scholarship and world heritage is organized are causing our role to shift. Whereas in the past the IISH was a reasonably independent supplier of knowledge, in the future we will increasingly be contributing to broader associations. Research is shifting toward inter-institutional team settings. Much of the financing for research and research infrastructure will be channelled via larger programmes in the coming period. In world heritage, virtually all collections will be part of national or international aggregate platforms. Collection data and digital objects are assumed to be openly available, so that they may be connected and combined. The IISH will be a team player that seeks and initiates partnerships.

In research and collections alike, the role of technology at the IISH will increase. Incorporating the IISH in the Humanities Cluster will equip the



<https://iisg.amsterdam/nl/collecties/verken/projecten/de-wim-kok-tapes>

Most significant grants

- *Tegen de stroom in: de sociale mobiliteit van joodse Nederlanders (1880-1940)* of the KNAW Research Fund (500K)
- *Clariah-Plus. Infrastructure for the Humanities* (13,8 million, as part of a larger consortium)
- *Metamorfoze subsidie voor de digitalisering van het archief collectie Alternatieve Bewegingen* (101K)

Institute for this trend. The HuC has a research group dedicated to Digital Humanities and is building a sophisticated digital infrastructure for collections and data. KNAW HuC researchers will have large, easily accessible data collections and advanced tools for analysis and visualization. The IISH will focus entirely on acquiring born-digital materials.

The most important objective in the coming period may well be to make a difference not only within the field of scholarship but also among those who are not fellow professionals. Through our research results, we aim to figure visibly in the social discourse on themes such as inequality, work and migration. We can use our collections to lead people to think and to inspire and activate them. In the years ahead the IISH will become an inspiring and inclusive site for research, discussion and debate.

Highlights in 2018

Society

The effort to increase social involvement received greater consideration. In 2018 it was focused mainly on demand for changing labour relations in the Netherlands and the role of trade unions there. The IISH will need to submit research proposals to this end in the years ahead. Together with the FNV trade union confederation, we organized two well-attended events in Pakhuis de Zwijger and De Balie.

We also produced sixteen hours of interviews with former Prime Minister Wim Kok about his period as a trade union leader, which is online available as an important source for the history of the trade union in the 1980s. Among those attending the presentation of this material were Minister Wouter Koolmees and Mayor Jozias van Aartsen. Other successful events included the Festival of Revolt, held during History Month in October. Because of the theme (Revolt), the IISH co-organized History Night on 27 October.



<https://iisg.amsterdam/nl/over/nieuws/festival-van-de-opstand-trekt-honderden-bezoekers>

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The presentation of the book for the general public *Vijf Eeuwen Migratie* about five centuries of migration by Jan and Leo Lucassen drew a packed auditorium in Pakhuis de Zwijger.

The book sold well. In addition, Matthias van Rossum contributed significantly to a documentary about the shipwrecked VOC vessel *Rooswijk*, and Leo Lucassen and Sjaak van der Velden were very active in social discussions about migration and labour relations, respectively.

Scholarship

Completion of the NWO Free Competition project *Iranian Oil* was major scholarly achievement that led to two dissertations in 2018. Newly acquired projects included CLARIAH Plus (NWO) and *Tegen de stroom in* via the KNAW research fund.

Two VENI proposals, an NWA proposal, two NWO Free Competition proposals and a huge investment proposal submitted to the NWO received favourable reviews but were not awarded funding. The same holds true for a proposal in the European Synergy programme under the aegis of Ulbe Bosma, which reached the third and final round but did not culminate in a grant. Continuing to the final round did, however, entail the right to submit a new proposal. This happened in late 2018.

Scholarly output is gratifying. The somewhat lower number of articles was offset by an above-average number of peer reviewed book chapters and books. The collection edited by R.J. van der Spek and Bas van Leeuwen, *Money, Currency and Crisis: In Search of Trust, 2000 BC to AD 2000*, merits special mention. The share of peer reviewed open access articles also reflected an encouraging rise from 41% in 2017 to 73% in 2018.

Collections

Metres of archives acquired (281 m) were down with respect to 2017, when an exceptionally large quantity of FNV archives arrived. A comparable quantity (271 m) of archive materials was processed. Improving the metadata



<https://dezwijger.nl/programma/vijf-eeuwen-migratie>

received considerable attention this year. Archives such as the Staatsarchief, the Historical Image Archive of Migrants and the Israeli Left Archive may now be searched and consulted more easily.

In the biannual quality monitor on Archive Services, analogue and digital visitors awarded our services a score of 8.5, the highest rating of all participating archive institutions in the Netherlands. Visits to the Reading Room and online requests increased as well. Our *scanning on demand* service experienced the highest growth of all, with 51,279 scans ordered, more than double the number in 2017.

In 2018 we utilized our ties with universities and reached out to new instructors as well. This resulted in 19 workshops in 2018. As a result of the workshop, students return regularly to the Reading Room. Interest in using the collection for exhibitions rose once again with respect to the previous year, with 348 standing loans to 17 institutions.

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Zuster(s) No.			

<https://iisg.amsterdam.nl/onderzoek/projecten/tegen-de-stroom>

Output

Research

Societal	2017	2018
Articles		
Popularising	13	16
Professional	33	21
Chapters in books		
Popularising	0	1
Professional	5	10
Books		
Popularising	1	1
Professional	0	3
Reports		
Popularising	0	0
Professional	0	0
Total	52	52
Scholarly	2017	2018
Articles		
refereed	41	29
non-refereed	5	2
Chapters in books		
refereed	30	41
non-refereed	11	2
Books		
refereed	7	11
non-refereed	3	1
Reports	2	2
PhD thesis	3	2
Total	102	90

Output

Collections

Category		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Archives - length on 31 December						
Archives – total	Metres	17,245	17,217	17,409	17,773	17,918
Archives - acquisitions and processed						
Archives – acquired	Metres	261	111	237	572	218
Archives - increase	Metres	189	28	192	364	145
Books - length on 31 December						
Books – total	numbers	896,18	899,891	908,596	914,628	920,044
Books - acquisitions and processed						
Books – acquired	numbers	7,280	4,120	9,180	7,571	5,416
Books – increase	numbers	6,754	3,473	8,705	6,032	5,416
Audio/video - length on 31 December						
Audio/video – total	numbers	22,902	23,592	23,003	23,877	23,734
Audio/video - acquisitions and processed						
Audio/video – acquired	numbers	155	717	897	874	133
Audio/video – increase	numbers	154	690	589	874	143
Visual materials - acquisitions and processed						
Visual materials – acquired	numbers	8,473	6,276	615	15,048	4,378
Visual materials – increase	numbers	8,330	599	5,093	15,016	34,953
Periodicals - length on 31 December						
Periodicals – total	Metres	12,930	12,895	12,902	12,959	12,968
Periodicals - to be described	Metres	174	68	38	42	16
Periodicals - acquisitions and processed						
Periodicals - acquired*	Metres	25	11	18	61	8.74
Periodicals - increase	Metres	10	35	7	57	9
Digital collections - acquisitions and processed						
Digital collections - acquired*	Terabyte			14	5	6



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