

Annual Report 2017



international institute
of social history



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.

Introduction

In 2017 the IISH dynamics increased noticeably. Many new co-workers joined us. Our efforts to raise funds from external sources started to bear fruit. New talent generates ideas, energy, and inspiration. This is necessary in an era where developments are constantly accelerating. This year was off to a vigorous start, with the design of our transition to digital archiving. We adjusted our research program about the history of global labour relations by placing greater and more explicit emphasis on social inequality. This makes us more compatible with national and international subsidy programs. Finally, we planned and launched joint projects with social partners, such as the FNV.

Outlook

In 2016 the KNAW Humanities Cluster became active, in which the IISH teams up with the Huygens ING and the Meertens Institute. This means that we share several services and a common ambition to work closely together in Digital Infrastructure and Digital Humanities. In addition to an overarching operations desk, 2017 was dedicated to reorganizing the ICT departments of the HuC institutes, which in 2018 will bring about a joint department with over 30 software developers. That is far more efficient and is necessary to realize our ambition of being at the vanguard in introducing new methods and techniques. The HuC institutes are heading up the construction of CLARIAH, the digital research infrastructure for humanities in the Netherlands. In 2017 we also started the shared Digital Humanities Lab, with three new researchers specialized in digital text analysis. In the second half of the year they were already fully active drafting IISH research proposals.

In the meantime we are preparing for 2018. Every six years the IISH undergoes a peer review that determines our academic status for the coming six years. We look forward to what is known as the SEP evaluation. The performance indicators reveal general improvement. At the end of 2017 a staff survey demonstrated that IISH staff are more satisfied than average about

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working at the institute, very committed, and find the organizational objectives clear. Equally importantly, our archiving services turned out to be the best in the Netherlands.

In conclusion, we remain active in larger (inter)national contexts. Adamnet, for example, aims to connect all metadata and digital objects relating to the City of Amsterdam, and Netwerk Digitaal Erfgoed [digital heritage network], financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, is designed to do likewise for all of the Netherlands. International counterparts we worked with include our sister institutes in the International Association of Labour History Institutions (IAHLI), which increased membership substantially thanks to a new drive.

Highlights in 2017

Scholarship

In 2017 the research group evaluated its Global Labour History program. After a series of discussion meetings, we decided to continue along the successful course chosen in 2000. One change is that we are highlighting economic and social inequality more, to align optimally with the programs such as the Nationale Wetenschapsagenda [national scholarship agenda] and Horizon Europe. The working hypothesis of IISH research is that shifts in labour relations, embedded in broader social structures, may be conducive to understanding changes in long-term patterns of social inequality, both within and between world regions. The prospect of work and labour relations is essential for discovering how inequality emerges and is perpetuated, within and between societies. Specifically, the IISH studies the different circumstances of compensating workers (from the top to the bottom of the social scale), and what people do individually and collectively to improve their circumstances. Once again, the research department achieved a high output, totalling 154 publications, including 41 peer-reviewed articles and 30 contributions to refereed edited volumes. Additionally, the institute produced nine books. With



Finally, in 2017 former research director Professor Dr Marcel van der Linden delivered his valedictory lecture at the University of Amsterdam, titled 'Walking Fish. How Conservative Behaviour Generates and Processes Radical Change' (September 22). <https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/events/uva-professorship-farewell-lecture-marcel-van-der-linden>



Berthe Neumeijer and Han van Loghem 1927

an annual average of 5.2 publications per fte, the IISH research group is now among the most productive groups of the KNAW. Important publications included the Handbook Global History of Work (Berlin 2018), edited by Karin Hofmeester and Marcel van der Linden, and the article by Jan and Leo Lucassen ‘Theorizing Cross-cultural migrations: the case of Eurasia since 1500,’ which appeared in Social Science History.

Four new projects launched in 2017. The NWO Veni project ‘Naval shipyards: Laboratories of capitalism’ by Pepijn Brandon, the NWO Free Competition study ‘Resilient diversity: The governance of racial and religious plurality in the Dutch empire, 1600-1800’ by Ulbe Bosma and Matthias van Rossum, and ‘Het multiculturele drama in perspectief: 40 jaar levenslopen van migranten en niet-migranten in Nederland’ [Multicultural drama in perspective: 40 years of life courses of migrants and non-migrants in the Netherlands] under the aegis of Leo Lucassen and Helga de Valk (NIDI), an approved grant application to the KNAW research fund. In addition, Matthias van Rossum headed up the FNV-financed research on the recent history of the Dutch trade-union movement, which began in 2017 and will be presented in 2018.

The PhD award to Rombert Stapel merits special mention. On 25 January he took his PhD cum laude for his PhD thesis ‘The Late Fifteenth-Century Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order: Manuscripts, Sources, and Authorship.’ On 11 October Maral Jefroudi followed with her PhD thesis ‘Revisiting “the Long Night” of Iranian Workers: Labor Activism in the Iranian Oil Industry in the 1960s.’

Most significant grants

- *The Film production ‘Bouwen te midden van Eenzaamheid’ (61K)*
- *Project on the Dutch Diamond Workers (61K)*
- *Goed Geld project (50K)*
- *Human capital, immigration and the maritime labour market (84K)*
- *FNV covenant (2 mln)*

Collections

In 2017 two vast multi-year projects started at the Collections Department. The first is an innovation operation and has been allocated 2.6 million euros in financing by the KNAW. In the coming years the IISH will be able to process and disclose large quantities of born-digital archive materials. Implementation of the Archivematica open-source digital preservation system was an important start. In addition, the FNV allocated 1.9 million euros toward dis-



<https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/fnv-en-IISH-sluiten-convenant-voor-2-miljoen-euro>

closing and partially digitizing the FNV archive. In this project circa two kilometres of materials currently still with the FNV unions will be transferred to the IISH. Both projects have brought an influx of new and mainly young staff members. An asset for the organization.

In 2017 the Press Museum left the IISH and became part of Sound & Vision in Hilversum. Their paper collections will remain at the IISH under management of the Collections Department. In a joint effort to keep press history alive, we will be working closely with Sound & Vision in the future.

The International Institute of Social History (IISH) and the FNV have signed a covenant to manage the vast archive of the federation. In this context the FNV is providing the IISH with over 2 million euros toward archive processing, digitization, and research.

[PvdA self-study reports \(1986-2009\)](#)

This is not the first time that the PvdA [labour party] conducts a self-study following an electoral defeat and reaches conclusions from it. How this was done previously, and what the conclusions were at the time is described in the PvdA archive, which has been entrusted to the International Institute of Social History. The many recommendations and reports about the dilemmas the party has faced since 1986 are disclosed to the public via our website.

<https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/rapporten-zelfonderzoek-pvda-1986-2009>

[Dozens of IISH posters on South Africa for an exhibition by the Rijksmuseum](#)

For the first time in ages, the Rijksmuseum is organizing another purely historical exhibition. On 17 February 2017 the doors opened for **GOOD HOPE. South Africa and the Netherlands from 1600**. These exhibitions feature dozens of posters from the IISH collection.

<https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/many-iish-posters-south-africa-exhibition-rijksmuseum>

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Sustainable digital archiving with Archivemata

The IISH has selected the Archivemata system (external link) to manage inflow and sustainable storage of digital collections. After carefully considering various systems, one was chosen early this year. In mid-March 2017 implementation began. Before the summer, processing born-digital archives via Archivemata is expected to be possible, after which digitized collections and research data will follow. <https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/long-term-preservation-archivemata>

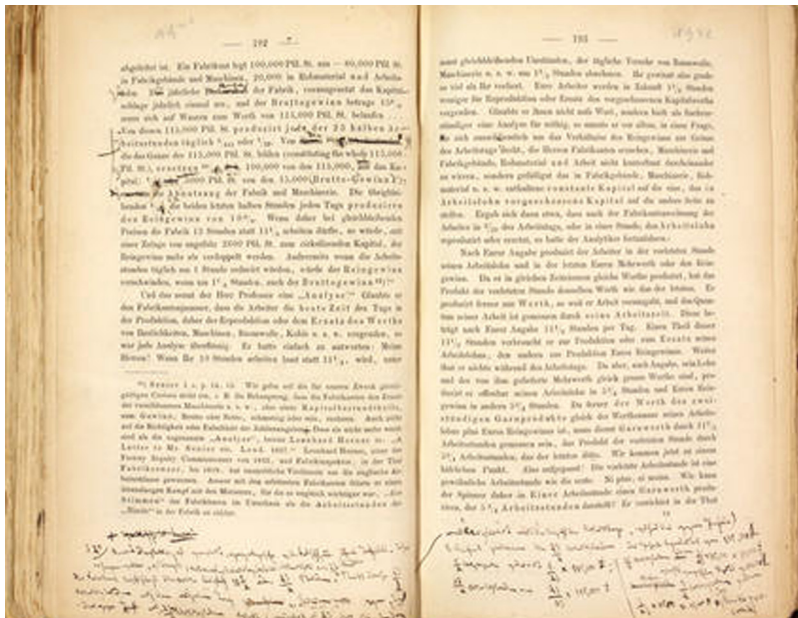
The Netherlands Press Museum merges with the Netherlands Institute For Sound & Vision

This merge will take effect from Wednesday 3 May. By clustering forces, the emerging organization will offer integral disclosure of the history and current events of media, press and journalism and will ensure preservation and continued development of press and media collections in the Netherlands. It has been agreed with the International Institute of Social History (IISH) that the Press Museum collections will continue to be preserved in Amsterdam. <https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/het-nederlands-persmuseum-en-het-nederlands-instituut-voor-beeld-en-geluid-vormen-vanaf-3-mei>

IISH journals available online in Delpher.

For years the IISH has participated in the Metamorfoze program of the National Library (KB) to conserve and digitize important Dutch newspapers and journals. A great many titles have now been fully published on Delpher, the KB digital newspaper site. The volumes and articles can therefore be read and searched from home as well. To date the journals digitized are mainly nineteenth and early twentieth-century socialist newspapers (e.g. Recht voor Allen) and union periodicals, e.g. of the NVV, CNV, NAS, and the ANDB. Digitization of many twentieth-century union periodicals and socialist journals is or will be in progress in the years ahead.

<https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/tijdschriften-IISH-online-beschikbaar-delpher>



<https://archief.socialhistory.org/en/news/das-kapital-fully-digitized>

Das Kapital goes digital

On 14 September 1867 the first volume of *Das Kapital* by Karl Marx was published. It has become one of the most influential books in world history. The Institute has a unique copy of the first edition, in which Marx personally made corrections and notes in the margin. This copy has now been fully digitized and is available and accessible to the public via the Institute website.

On 30 June 2017 the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) (link is external) and the IISH signed a memorandum of understanding for collaboration on archival preservation. ITUC-Africa is a pan-African trade union organisation with 16 million declared members and 103 affiliated trade union centres in 51 African countries, headquartered in Lome, Togo. ITUC-Africa was founded in 2007 following the merger of two African trade union organizations. The memorandum of understanding was signed by the General Secretary of ITUC-Africa, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, and the General Director of the IISH, Henk Wals. <https://archieff.socialhistory.org/en/news/memorandum-understanding-iish-and-ituc-africa>

Public Services

Excellent services

In a benchmark survey on services – the quality monitor of Dutch archiving – the IISH was selected as the best. The participating archives conduct this survey once every two years, with and for the institution members. This year 34 institutions participated, and a record number of over 3,600 respondents completed the survey. The selection was a good start for the new head of the Services Department Anne Oechtering, who took up this position at the IISH on 1 April. There were 5,970 visits to the Reading Room, of which one third by foreigners. They consulted a total of 10,274 archive units.

Output

Research

| Societal | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Articles | | |
| Popularising | 15 | 13 |
| Professional | 39 | 33 |
| Chapters in books | | |
| Popularising | | 0 |
| Professional | 2 | 5 |
| Books | | |
| Popularising | 3 | 1 |
| Professional | 2 | 0 |
| Reports | | |
| Popularising | | 0 |
| Professional | | 0 |
| Total | 61 | 52 |
| Scholarly | 2016 | 2017 |
| Articles | | |
| refereed | 31 | 41 |
| non-refereed | 5 | 5 |
| Chapters in books | | |
| refereed | 27 | 30 |
| non-refereed | 4 | 11 |
| Books | | |
| refereed | 7 | 7 |
| non-refereed | | 3 |
| Reports | | 2 |
| PhD thesis | | 3 |
| Total | 73 | 102 |

There were 148 standing loans for exhibitions.

Because of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx in 2018, a great deal of material was loaned to exhibition makers, especially those in Germany and China.



Output

Collections

| Category | | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|----------|---------|---------|
| Archives - length on 31 December | | | |
| Archives – total | Metres | 17,409 | 17,773 |
| Archives - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Archives – acquired | Metres | 237 | 572 |
| Archives - increase | Metres | 192 | 364 |
| Books - length on 31 December | | | |
| Books – total | numbers | 908,596 | 914,628 |
| Books - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Books – acquired | numbers | 9,180 | 7,571 |
| Books – increase | numbers | 8,705 | 6,032 |
| Audio/video - length on 31 December | | | |
| Audio/video – total | numbers | 23,003 | 23,877 |
| Audio/video - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Audio/video – acquired | numbers | 897 | 874 |
| Audio/video – increase | numbers | 589 | 874 |
| Visual materials - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Visual materials – acquired | numbers | 615 | 15,048 |
| Visual materials – increase | numbers | 5,093 | 15,016 |
| Periodicals - length on 31 December | | | |
| Periodicals – total | Metres | 12,902 | 12,959 |
| Periodicals - to be described | Metres | 38 | 42 |
| Periodicals - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Periodicals - acquired* | Metres | 18 | 61 |
| Periodicals - increase | Metres | 7 | 57 |
| Digital collections - acquisitions and processed | | | |
| Digital collections - acquired* | Terabyte | 14 | 5 |



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