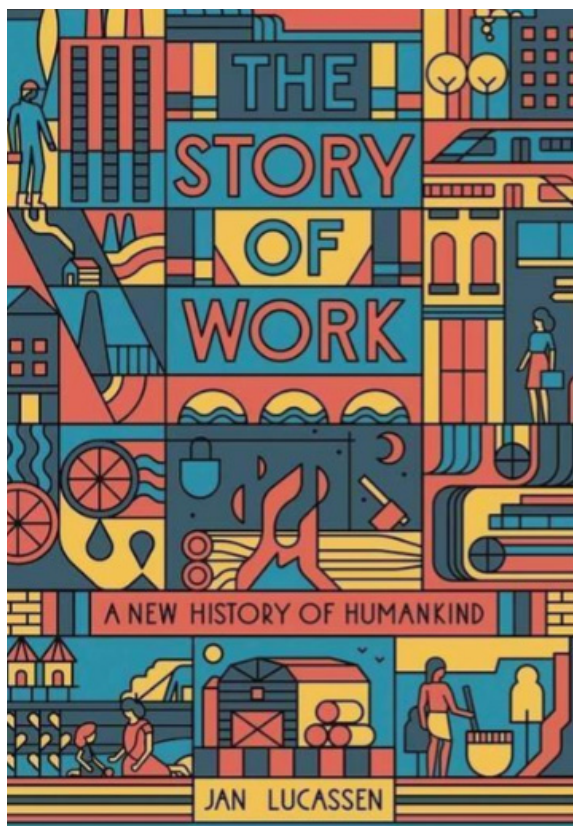


Annual Report 2021





Introduction

In 2021, the second Covid year, the Institute alternated between lockdowns, partial opening and restricted opportunities to work at Cruquiusweg. Despite our best efforts to maintain services for reading room visitors (e.g. by digitizing on request), we had to disappoint many visitors. The limited access to our building made us aware of the importance of personal contact.

Notwithstanding these restrictions, the Institute remained operational, and we were pleased to welcome Jan Lucassen's magnum opus *The Story of Work*, published in July by Yale University Press (followed by a Dutch translation in the autumn), which may be regarded as a major synthesis of the long-term research programme on the history of global labour relations.

Other highlights include international interest in our Spanish anarchist collections, the successful online European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) and the Eight Hours Festival in the autumn.

Also in 2021, Afelonne Doek, who headed up the Collections Department for almost a decade, left the Institute to accept the prestigious position of National Archivist. Eric de Ruijter was appointed interim Director of Collections.



Society

On 27 August 2021, senior researcher Gijs Kessler co-organized a very special meeting at the IISH: the reunion of the 37 children who were born 71 years ago at the Ranchi steamship, on the journey from Indonesia to the Netherlands. This emotional oral history project was instigated by the discovery in the collections of the International Institute of Social History of a photo of those on board when the ship arrived in Amsterdam in 1950. The discovery of the photo gave rise to audio tours, an exhibition, a reunion of those on board and in the future a series of podcasts and possibly a book: <https://iisg.amsterdam/en/blog/de-reis-van-de-ranchi>

In October the Institute, as theme partner of History Month ('Let's work') – coordinated by our new communications officer Rose Spijkerman - organized four well-attended meetings at the Institute and co-organized one at the Public Library in Amsterdam's city centre on various aspects of work and labour relations, ranging from exploitation of labour migrants by commercial employment agencies and working conditions in the global South to an evening with representatives of new platforms and pop-up forms of social action, such as grass-roots organizers of bicycle messengers and initiators of a campaign to raise the minimum wage to 14 euros. On Saturday 2 October, the Institute also organized the well-attended Eight Hours festival with a very diverse programme, featuring leading trade unionists, such as Ron Meyer and Kitty Jong (FNV), writer Dan Afrifa and a session on disability in the corporate world.



Board of Directors:

Leo Lucassen: General Director

Karin Hofmeester: Director of Research

Afelonne Doek: Director of Data & Collections (Until October 1)

Eric de Ruijter: Director of Data & Collections (Since October 1)

Sabine Rummens: Director of General Services / CFO HuC

Academic Advisory Board:

Prof. Dr. Luuk de Ligt (chair since August 1)

Prof. Dr. Jan Luiten van Zanden (chair until August 1)

Prof. Dr. Catia Antunes

Prof. Dr. Ewout Frankema

Prof. Dr. Julia Noordegraaf

Drs. Johan Oomen

Ass. Prof. Juliane Schiel

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Zakaria Boufangacha (Member FNV board)

Drs. Marens Engelhard (Director National Archives)

Drs. Agnes Jongerius (Member European Parliament for the PvdA)

Dr. Lilly Knibbeler (Director General, Koninklijke Bibliotheek)

Prof. Dr. Sarah de Lange (Political Science, University of Amsterdam)

Drs. Petra Stienen (auteur, onafhankelijk adviseur,
leiderschapscoach, senator D66).

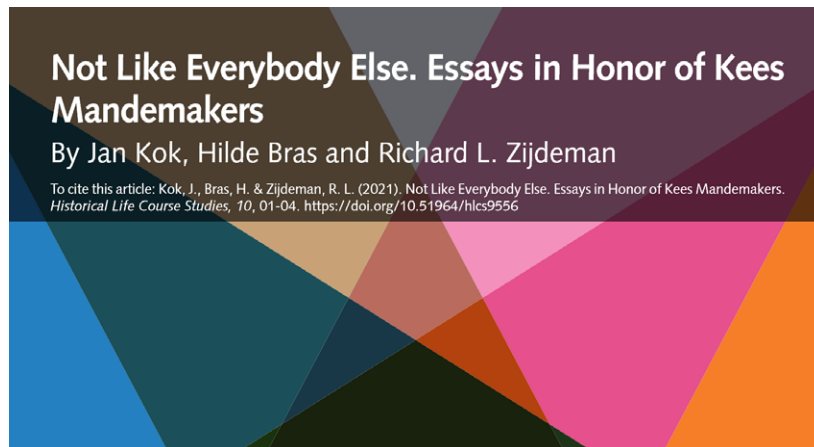
In September the institute organized a public debate with Dutch and Belarusian researchers and artists on the repression in Belarus, in recognition of the rigged elections by Lukashenko's regime a year earlier. Finally, in December the lavishly illustrated book *Migratie als DNA van Amsterdam* (by Jan and Leo Lucassen) was published. Bringing to life the history of migration from the 16th century to the present day, this publication is aimed at a broad readership. Commissioned by the City of Amsterdam, the work is designed to inform its citizens about the inherently migratory and mobile nature of their home town.

Research

Kees Mandemakers retired this year. In the 1980s he launched the Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN) at the IISH, gradually coordinating and expanding the HSN over the course of his career. As such, he is the founding father of one of the world's richest longitudinal historical databases. Kees promoted international comparative research by launching and coordinating the European Historical Population Samples Network and played a key role in setting up Historical Life Course Studies. In recognition of his retirement, Jan Kok, Hilde Bras and Richard Zijdeman edited a special issue of this Open Access journal: *Not Like Everybody Else. Essays in Honor of Kees Mandemakers*.

A prestigious moment was the appointment of Pepijn Brandon as Professor of Global Economic and Social History at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. In addition, he received an NWO Vidi Grant for his proposal *Land Grabbing and Dutch Empire (16th-18th century)*. Pepijn Brandon will stay on at the IISH one day a week as senior researcher.

We welcomed Hanna te Velde. She has been awarded the Professor van Winterfonds PhD grant to conduct her research *Colonial Girl Power* on women's strategies for upward social mobility in Dutch colonial settlements in Asia and the Atlantic in the early modern period. She will be supervised by Ulbe Bosma and Matthias van Rossum.

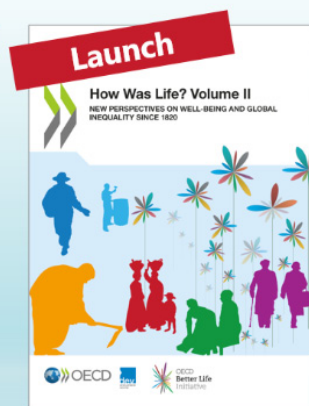


How Was Life? Volume II

Webinar 25 March 2021
15:30 to 17:00 (CET)

Authors will present key findings & discuss how to move the quantitative economic history agenda forward.

To join us, register at:
<http://bit.ly/How-Was-Life-Launch>

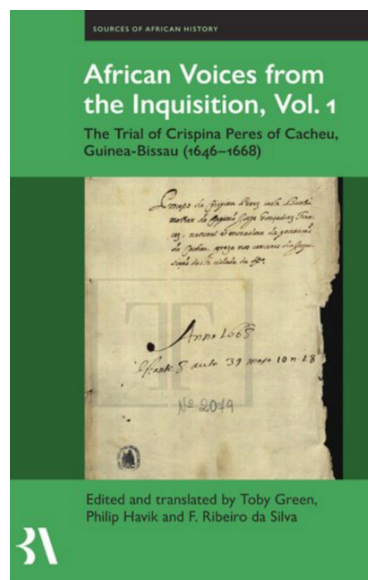


Work, Income and Social Inequality

Information on work in the past is often found in unexpected sources. The Inquisition trial of Crispina Peres (1646-1668), an African woman born in the Guinea-Bissau region and accused of witchcraft, conveys a unique impression of the life, household, work and health of an African woman and the social and commercial networks in which she participated. Filipa Ribeiro da Silva, together with Toby Green and Philip J. Havik, translated and annotated the text of the trial published as *African Voices from the Inquisition: The Trial of Crispina Peres of Cacheu, Guinea-Bissau (1646-1668)* by Oxford University Press.

The wide variety of work studied by IISH researchers is illustrated by our Indian colleague Radhika Seshan, who together with Jan Lucassen edited *Wage Earners in India 1500 – 1900: Regional Approaches in an International Context*, available in Open Access. In various articles in the volume, the authors examine wages, welfare levels and social inequality and put the Indian cases in a global perspective.

Social inequality is highlighted in the two articles co-authored by Bas van Leeuwen, one on inequality in educational achievement for the OECD publication *How was life? Volume II: New perspectives on well-being and global inequality since 1820* and the other on the consequences of economic growth, living standards and inequality worldwide in *The Cambridge Economic History of the Modern World*.



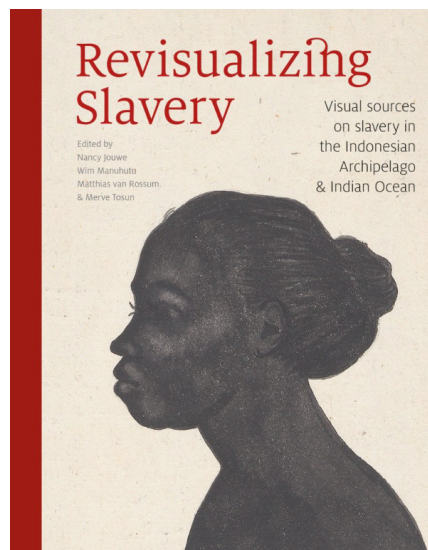


Research on slavery

Slavery and other manifestations of forced labour relations have long been integral to research at the IISH. Coinciding with the Black Lives Matter movement and growing societal interest in the history of slavery, several banks and insurance companies understandably approached the IISH, requesting that we examine past involvement of their companies (and their predecessors) in financing plantations, marketing products cultivated there and engaging in slave trade. A group of researchers under the aegis of Pepijn Brandon in co-operation with Gerhard de Kok conducted an extensive study on the slave-based economic activities of two predecessors of the Dutch ABN AMRO Bank: Hope & Co and R. Mees & Zoonen. The findings were published in the Spring of 2022 and may be downloaded from

<https://iisg.amsterdam/files/2022-04/IISG-Conclusies-ABN-AMRO-NL.pdf>.

Pepijn Brandon also conducted a pilot study on the slavery connections of Private bank InsingerGilissen and together with Sabine Go also on those of the insurance companies Nationale Nederlanden and ASR. Both institutions will decide on publication and follow-up activities in 2022.



A comparative perspective on the impact of slave-based activities in Europe is the topic of a special issue of *Slavery & Abolition* that Tamira Combrink and Matthias van Rossum edited: *Europe and Slavery: Revisiting the Impact of Slave-Based Activities on European Economies, 1500-1850*. The issue includes articles by colleagues Tamira Combrink on slave-based coffee and the Dutch global commodity chains, by Filipa Ribeiro da Silva on the profits of the Portuguese-Brazilian transatlantic slave trade and by Ulbe Bosma and Pepijn Brandon on slavery and the Dutch economy. The final article of the special issue 'Revisiting Europe and Slavery' by Sven Beckert.

An entirely different approach appears in the volume edited by Matthias van Rossum and Merve Tosun, together with Nancy Jouwe and Wim Manuhutu: *Revisualizing Slavery. Visual sources on slavery in the Indonesian Archipelago & Indian Ocean*. Exploring the history of slavery in Asia by focusing on visual sources, the authors note the harsher aspects of slavery in Asia and similarities with the Atlantic history of slavery.

<https://lmpublishers.nl/en/product/revisualizing-slavery/>



Datahubs and research infrastructures

In recent years the importance of being able to connect our databases with other knowledge domains has become clear. With this in mind, we have worked hard to facilitate access to data and digitized documents. They can now be used for advanced research methods and are extremely important for social-economic research that connects and compares various regions in the world. The Open Science grants received by Rombert Stapel and Rick Mourits to link databases to historical demography and by Richard Zijde- man to create re-usable and sustainable sparql queries help us generate these data.

Datahubs and research infrastructures are large-scale endeavours that can be undertaken only in cooperation with colleagues abroad and closer to home. The project on Russian statistics is a case in point. In April Gijs Kes- sler and his Russian colleague Andrei Markevich launched their Electronic Repository of Russian Historical Statistics ([RISTAT](#)). Standardized, well-anno- tated and featuring a regional break-down, RISTAT makes essential data available on population, labour, industrial output and agricultural output for five cross-sections of Russian history in the 18th-21st centuries. This new datahub will enable scholars to compare and connect Russian social and economic history with that of other areas in the world. Data are available online for all interested users, free of charge.

On a smaller scale, Rombert Stapel as part of a group of scholars from the Universiteit van Amsterdam, the KNAW Humanities Cluster and the Univer- sity of Antwerp launched the website *Hertogdom Brabant* with a GIS-based map presenting data on, for example, population and fiscal sources in the late mediaeval period. The underlying data are available at the [IISH Dataverse](#).

Last but certainly not least, an NWO large-scale Research Infrastructure grant will enable a consortium of the Huygens ING, the Vrije Universiteit,

the National Archives, the IISH and the KNAW Humanities Cluster to create an online infrastructure that unlocks the key series of VOC documents and reports for advanced new research methods. The infrastructure for this GLOBALISE project will be built over the period 2021-2026, in conjunction with scholars from all over the world. One of the ground-breaking features is that it enables us better than in the past to overcome the dominant VOC perspective, thanks to the option of selecting data that are relevant for other parts of the world, such as names of individuals and groups (e.g. enslaved people) in Asia and Africa and information on commodity chains. Matthias van Rossum is the Principal Investigator for this project, which will, for example, be conducive to research on the history of (coerced) work, labour relations and inequalities.



Events

As mentioned in the introduction, our large biannual European Social Science History Conference that was supposed to take place in Leyden in March 2020 was postponed till March 2021 because of COVID. Unfortunately, the pandemic also forced us to shift to a digital format. An online conference with 1,381 participants and 298 parallel sessions is a challenge. Given these circumstances, however, the 13th ESSHC conference was quite successful.

In September a special issue appeared of *The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History* (TSEG) *The Dutch neoliberal turn*, edited by Rosa Kösters, Bram Mellink, Merijn Oudenampsen and Matthias Van Rossum. The authors of this issue presented their views on the so-called *poldermodel*, arguing that the 1980s were not a period of consensus but one of controversies in the context of heated debates on market thinking.

In December the Commodity Frontiers Initiative hosted an online roundtable discussion on the research agenda of the Commodity Frontiers Initiative that appeared in the *Journal of Global History* as *Commodity Frontiers and the Transformation of the Global Countryside: A Research Agenda* and was authored by Sven Beckert, Ulbe Bosma, Mindi Schneider and Eric Vanhaute. The roundtable is *recorded* for those who missed it.

Most significant grants

- NWO Large-scale Research Infrastructure IISH as part of a consortium with Huygens ING, Vrije Universiteit, National Archives and KNAW Humanities Cluster
- NWO Vidi Pepijn Brandon
- PhD grant Van Winter fund Hanna te Velde
- Open Science grant Rombert Stapel and Rick Mourits
- Open Science grant Richard Zijdeman

Data & collections

Due to restrictions imposed in connection with the Covid pandemic, reading room services were scaled back in 2021. The decrease in visits was countered by soaring deliveries of scans. Investing in a new A1 scanner made us better able to handle scanning on demand and allowed us to increase the number of copies available in the online catalogue. The importance and improvement of online services has become especially evident. The same constraints also meant that less material could be acquired and processed. Staff members of the collection development department were not allowed to travel and could not meet with their network. Processing the backlog of unprocessed collections accumulated in the 2020 Covid year was not possible yet. From home, staff made useful improvements to existing records, providing them with the right country and language codes and adding titles to poster and button descriptions.

In addition, efforts were made to improve the workflow for processing digitized collections by implementing a better pre-ingest area. Two large digitizing projects funded by Metamorfoze concluded. Several archives of alternative movements (on temperance, antimilitarism, new Malthusianism and freethinking) and a large collection of Price lists (Prijscouranten) became digitally available.



Open Archive project

Open Archief 2020-21 was a research project, organized in conjunction with Het Nieuwe Instituut and The Institute for Sound & Vision. Through an artistic residency program, an exposition and two workshops (Re:Use Clinics) over the course of the year, Open Archief brought media artists and heritage institutions together to discuss the importance of creative reuse of heritage and of making digital collections available.

The Re:Use Clinics (workshops on creative reuse) were very well attended, revealing clearly how eager artists were to engage in debate about the role of heritage. The project concluded with an exhibition in Rotterdam, composed by the three artists in residence and based on the collections of the three institutions. Choosing socially relevant themes such as racism, discrimination, activism and democracy, the artists showed the value of the project's mission to open up collections from heritage institutions in new ways.



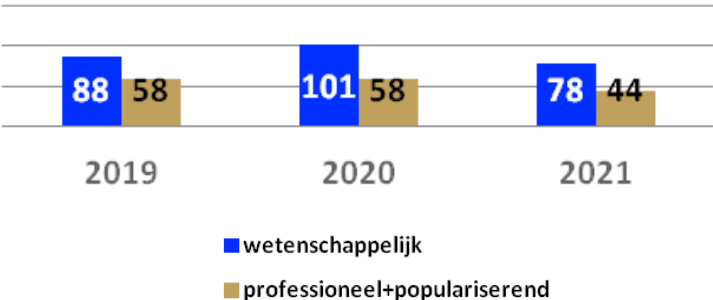
Linking lives project

The Dutch Diamond Workers Union (ANDB) archive's extensive membership records contain data on profession(s), family ties within the industry and the union, addresses, as well as data on temporary migration, for example to Antwerp. The archive has been digitized with support from Metamorfoze funding, and the data on the cards have been transcribed via a crowd sourcing project. The first version of the data had been presented in 2019 on the website <https://diamantbewerkers.nl> together with the data from 8,000 membership cards of the Belgian General Diamond Worker's Union (ADB).

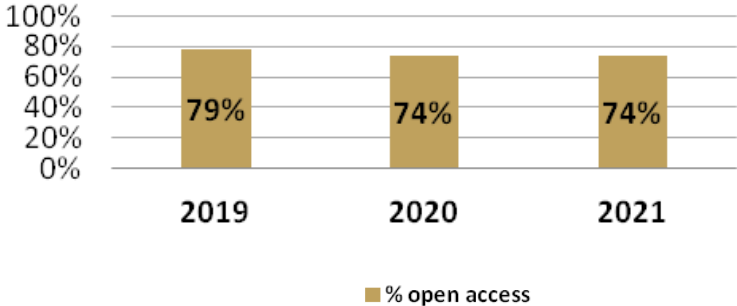
A grant from the Rothschild foundation enabled us to set up the project *Linked Lives* to enrich these data. After purging data with care, we reduced 28,424 cards to 21,646 unique persons and created a capsule biography for each member based on data from the various cards. This dataset was converted to Linked Open Data. Automatic linkage with the ADB dataset then enabled us to enrich the biographical data of more than 500 Amsterdam diamond workers with data on their lives and work in Antwerp. We also linked our unique persons to the data from *Oorlogslevens* (Second World War lives). This enabled us to add data on the sad fates of over 6,000 diamond workers during the Shoah. Addresses were linked to the (HIS)GIS coordinates of actual buildings, providing us with details on the residential trajectories of diamond workers. By compiling a list of diamond polishing factories, we linked the data on factories where apprentices were trained to a description of the factory, including its address. Finally, a data story was created to enable visitors to query the LOD and see results from specific research questions. The project was completed in 2021 and exemplifies how enriched collection data can give rise to new research questions.

Output

Scholarly and societal (Professional + popularising) publications



% Open access refereed articles in journals



Output

Scholarly publications, by output type, listed according to refereed and non-refereed.

Scholarly output-types	2019	2020	2021
Scholarly articles			
refereed	28	39	31
non-refereed	3	5	7
Chapters in books			
refereed	35	31	19
non-refereed	2	10	11
Books			
refereed	17	10	7
non-refereed	0	3	3
Reports	1	1	0
PhD Theses	2	2	0
Total	88	101	78

Societal publications by output type possibly listed according to popularising (for a general readership) and professional.

Societal output-types	2019	2020	2021
Articles			
Popularising	45	52	37
(Professional)			
Chapters in books	9	4	3
Popularising			
(Professional)			
Books	4	1	3
Popularising			
(Professional)		3	0
Reports			
Popularising	0	1	1
(Professional)			
Total	52	58	44

Source: Pure

Output

Collections: Total of available material

Category		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Archives: Length on december 31st						
Archives - Total	Metres	17773	17918	18719	19039	19115
Archives - Acquisitions and processed						
Archives - acquired	Metres	572	218	661	279	235
Archives - Processed	Metres	365	145	801	320	76
Books - inventory on december 31st						
Books - Total	Numbers	914628	920044	925039	926772	931435
Books - Acquisitions and Processed						
Books - Acquired	Numbers	7571	5416	4995	1259	1081
Books - increase	Numbers	6032	5416	4995	1733	4663
Audio/Video - number on 31st of December						
Audio/Video - total	Numbers	23877	23732	22910	22948	23020
Audio/Video - acquisitions and processed						
Audio/Video - acquired	Numbers	874	133	150	428	1431
Audio/Video - Increase	Numbers	874	143	158	52	157
Visual Materials - Acquisition and Processed						
Visual Materials - acquired	Numbers	15048	4378	3007	1507	1713608
Visual Materials - increase	Numbers	15016	34953	4378	36115	31619
Periodicals - Length on December 31st						
Periodicals - total	Metres	12959	12968	13009	13042	13037
Periodicals - Acquisitions and processed						
Periodicals - Acquired*	Metres	61	8,74	18,56	4,4	6,15
Periodicals - Increase	Metres	57	9	41	12,65	3,13
Digital Collections -Acquisition and Processed						
Digital Collections - acquired*	Terabyte	5	6	3	1,2	18

Social Media Outreach

		2020	2021
Instagram	Volgers	1017	1439
Twitter	Volgers	6211	7113
Linkedin	Volgers	1706	2073



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