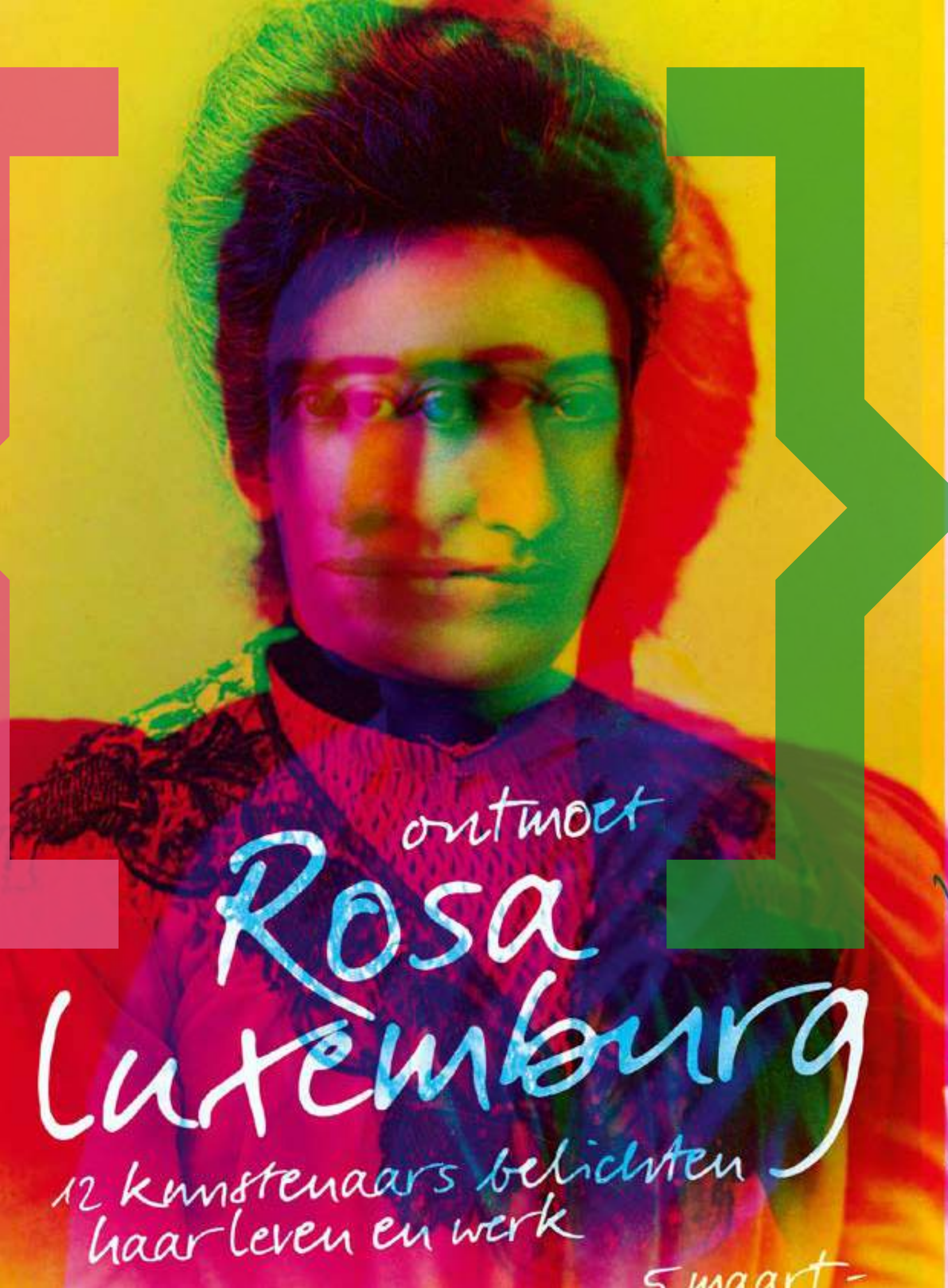


Annual Report 2024



international institute
of social history
internationaal instituut
voor sociale geschiedenis

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INTRODUCTION

The beginning of 2024 was a moment of reflection on the institute's accomplishments over the past six years, following the [Standard Evaluation Protocol \(SEP\)](#). Drawing on our [self-evaluation](#) and a visit by the international SEP-committee, we received valuable [feedback and recommendations](#), most notably the need to articulate a more explicit strategy for the years to come. The committee's key finding was that the institute has performed very successfully in recent years, not only in navigating the financial and organizational challenges of the COVID-19 period, but also in securing important and prestigious external grants that have enabled the Research and the Data & Collection departments to advance their core missions.

A special highlight was the [visit of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands](#), in his capacity as patron of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). In December, the king was given a tour of the archives, followed by a series of project pitches presented by colleagues from both the Collection and Research departments, showcasing key IISH initiatives. The visit concluded with a roundtable discussion involving important stakeholders of the Institute.



King Willem-Alexander and Caro Matulessya



Fortunatæ: a film by Global Slavery History Fellow [Javier Estupiñán](#)

This year also marked the launch of a [new five-year fellowship programme](#) focused on global slavery history, developed in collaboration with nine other Amsterdam-based heritage institutions (museums, archives, research institutions). The programme aims to facilitate the stay of early-career historians, curators, and archivists from formerly colonized regions in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, fostering meaningful exchange of views and practices with their Amsterdam-based colleagues.

Finally, the KNAW Strategiefonds awarded funding to *Fostering the Democratization of Heritage-Related Collection and Research through New Models for Citizen Science*, a collaborative project involving IISH, the Huygens Institute, and the Meertens Institute.

This initiative will enable pilot projects in citizen science, co-creating research questions, methodologies, datasets, and dissemination strategies in partnership with stakeholders from underrepresented communities.

Grants

In 2024, the Research Department secured approximately €3.5 million in grants. Notable among these was an ERC Advanced Grant awarded to Ulbe Bosma for his project *SevenFrontiers: The Global South in the Age of Early Industrial Capitalism*. Additionally, a substantial grant from the European Social Fund was awarded for a joint research project with the Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV). This project, *Women Forward with Network V*, aims to promote gender equality in the workplace (specifically in the ICT and cleaning sectors). The Data & Collections Department also achieved significant success, securing over €400,000 for the digitization of several Indonesian and oral history archives. Furthermore, Timon de Groot was awarded the GAK-KNAW Award to pursue his research project *A Just Energy Transition*, which investigates the historical shift from coal to gas in the 1960s and explores its relevance for today's energy transition.



SevenFrontiers project. The seven most exported commodities from the Global South: sugar, cotton, coffee, tea, precious metals (gold/silver), opium and cereals

Data

An important impulse was given to the Historical Geographical Information System (HGIS) expertise at the IISH — and within the KNAW Humanities Cluster in general — through [a substantial award](#) from the Netherlands' Cultural Heritage Agency and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science. This funding will enable Rombert Stapel (senior researcher IISH), Thomas Vermaut (HuC Digital Infrastructure), and their team to make the results of the digitization of the Netherlands' oldest land registry (dating from 1832) accessible to a broad and diverse public.

Colleagues

In 2024, the institute mourned the loss of four former colleagues who remained deeply engaged with their work long after retirement. In January, [Götz Langkau](#) (1935–2024) died. He began his work on the source publication of the Marx-Engels papers in 1965 and continued his research at the Institute for decades, focusing on key socialist thinkers such as Wilhelm Liebknecht and Karl Korsch, until 2023.

In September, [Stefan Landsberger](#) (1955–2024) passed away. As renowned specialist in Chinese history, he was the driving force behind the unique collection of some 5,000 Chinese propaganda posters from the Mao era. He also played a pivotal role in acquiring documents related to the 1989 democratization movement and its brutal repression.

In October, we received the sad news of the death of [Wim van der Linden](#) (1934–2024), who headed the Iconographic Department from 1971 to 1987. In the pre-computer era, he devised a user-friendly card index system for locating the Institute's extensive (political) poster collection, much of which he gathered himself. This made him a well-known figure among Dutch activist groups. Upon his early retirement, he published his magnum opus *The International Peace Movement, 1815–1874*.

In December of 2024 [Piet Lourens](#) (1946–2024) passed away. He joined the Institute in 1988 and remained active in the Research Department long after his retirement in 2011. He specialized in seasonal migration and collaborated closely with Jan Lucassen, with whom he published several important books on this topic.



Film screening and talk De handen van het Cruquiseiland

SOCIETY

EVENTS

In 2024, the Institute hosted a wide range of public lectures, book launches, symposia, and other events in collaboration with individual scholars, academic institutions, archives, and government bodies. A particularly important initiative was the launch of a new lecture series “Palestine in Focus”, which reflects on the history of Palestine, the consequences of the genocide on its people, and the mass destruction of Gaza by the Israeli army and its impact on universities, research centres, libraries, and archives.



Palestine

As at many universities around the world, the situation of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank has deeply moved many employees of both the KNAW and the IISH. In response, a group of colleagues from both the Research and the Data & Collection Department initiated the “Palestine in Focus” lecture series to explore the historical and present-day position of Palestinians in relation to the state of Israel. The first six meetings of “Palestine in Focus” were held in 2024, covering topics such as [the role of boycotts](#) and the [commemoration of the Nakba](#) (1948).



*Palestine in Focus - Organising for Palestine: Past and Present
Clara Vlessing, Francisca de Haan en Robert Soeterik (Nederlands Palestina Komitee), Ruth de Wijs (Women in Black), Esther van der Most (Plant een Olijfboom), Noah Pellikaan (Student activism)*



*Palestine in Focus - Boycotts: their role in addressing historical injustices
Jeff Handmaker, Pepijn Brandon, Omar Barghouti and Gloria Wekker*



*De Spanjestrijders en ik.
Katinka Baehr and Laura Lubbers*

Spanish Civil War

Following the four-part VPRO podcast series *De Spanjestrijders en ik* on the Dutch volunteers who joined socialist and anarchist forces during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), the IISH organized a public event to reflect of their legacy. Historian and podcast maker Laura Lubbers explained what motivated young, idealistic Dutch men and women to risk their lives in the fight against fascist troops in the period 1936-1939. For this podcast series, Laura Lubbers used cassette recordings of interviews conducted in the 1980s, which are kept at the IISH.



*De Spanjestrijders en ik.
Almudena Rubio Pérez and Jens Aurich*

Russian elections

On 13 March 2024, the IISH hosted an event in collaboration with *The Moscow Times* to reflect on Russia's presidential elections – past, present, and future. By that point, it was already clear that Putin would declare himself president of the Russian Federation for another six years. Since the early 2000s, Russia has shifted toward an increasingly authoritarian rule, with elections reduced to a kind of political theatre or circus that has little to do with democracy. The field of candidates is tightly controlled, opposition politicians sidelined, jailed, or murdered and the election results are manipulated. The meeting at the IISH, moderated by senior researcher and Russian history specialist Gijs Kessler, sparked a thought-provoking discussion. Key questions included: How did Russia reach this point? When was democracy lost in Russia – or was it an illusion from the start? What purpose do elections serve in Russia's political system if not the election of the country's leaders?



*Presidential Elections in Russia: Past, Present, Putin
Gijs Kessler, Alexander Gubsky, Kristina Petrasova, Samantha Berkhead and Mikhail Fishman*

Exhibition

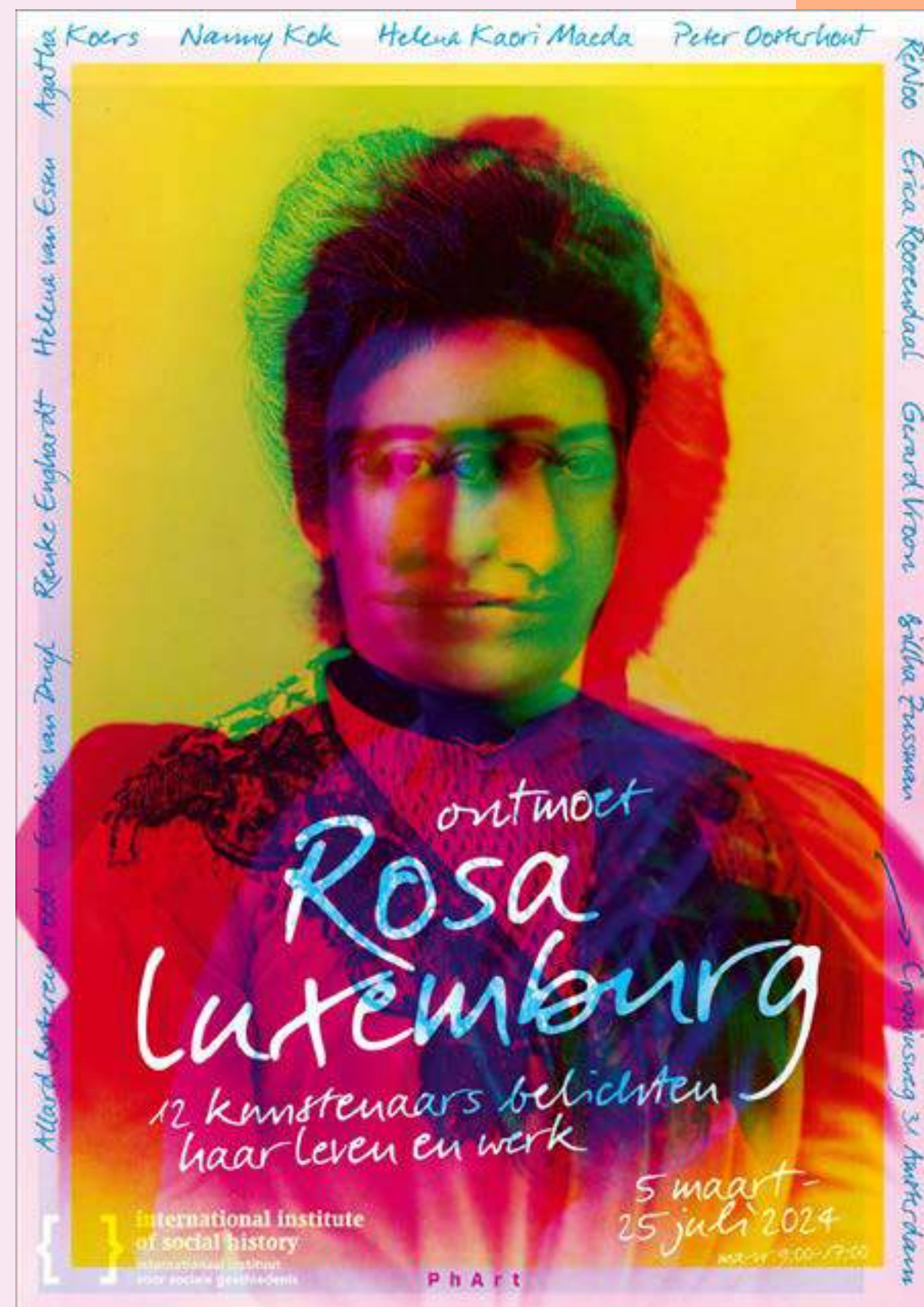
In March, the IISH opened an exhibition on the significance and enduring influence of Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919), an important early twentieth-century socialist thinker whose legacy is partly preserved at the IISH. The exhibition featured works by twelve artists inspired by Luxemburg's work. She was killed, alongside Karl Liebknecht, by German anti-communist militias in the aftermath of World War I. One of the artists, Rienke Enghardt, contributed a powerful work honouring three young Iranian women – Armita Girvaan, Nika Shakarami, and Sarina Esmailzadeh, who became symbols of the Women, Life, Freedom movement. Enghardt painted their portraits on a kite, which served as a focal point for a participatory happening at the IISH. The event opened with an introduction by colleague Marzieh Heydarian (Collection Development), who provided context on the current situation in Iran. This was followed by a conversation about what freedom meant to all the participants. While talking, the participants were drawing on the kite, creating a collective artwork that became part of the exhibition.



Kites of Transformation Iran: Woman, Life, Freedom



Opening exhibition Ontmoet Rosa Luxemburg



Poster door Allard Boterenbrood



*Illuminando de Indische Buurt
Rose Spijkerman, Anna Dabrowska and Alessandra Laitempergher*

Documentary

An evening dedicated to our own neighbourhood was a great success, attended by many local residents. The documentary *Illuminando de Indische Buurt*, made by filmmakers Anna Dabrowska and Alessandra Laitempergher, premiered at the IISH in October. This documentary tells the story of the rapid transformation of Amsterdam's Indische Buurt, as seen through the vibrant lens of the annual Super Sint Maarten Parade. After the screening, there was a discussion about gentrification, social cohesion, loneliness, and the connecting power of culture.

Slavery and the Insinger Foundation

In March, a research report by Bas van Holsteijn shed light on the origins of the wealth behind the Insinger Foundation, a philanthropic organization whose endowment was built by members of the Insinger family during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The research revealed that a significant portion of this wealth stemmed from investments in plantations in both Indonesia and Suriname, and that the Insinger Bank was among the most successful and profitable enterprises in the slavery sector. The report attracted considerable media attention.

Slavery in the Zaan Region

In December, the IISH launched a new research project, funded by the municipality of Zaanstreek, to investigate the colonial and slavery-related history of the Zaan region.

*Presentation research Insinger Stichting
Lara Nuberg, Guno Jones, Henrick van Asch van Wijck, Bianca Groen Gallant and Matthias van Rossum*



IISH AND THE MEDIA

IISH newsletter

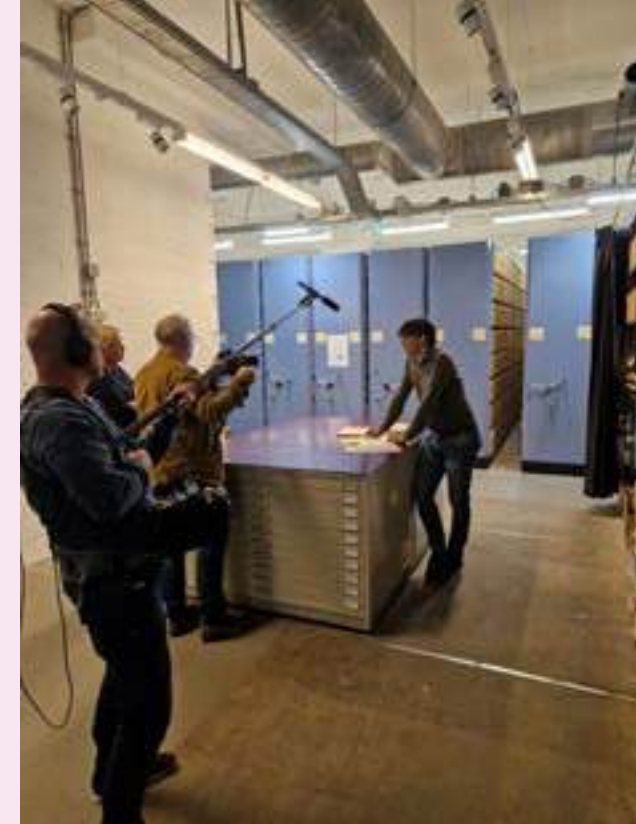
After years of not sending out a newsletter, but receiving frequent requests to share IISH news and events this way, in May 2024 the first newsletter was a fact. The newsletter has 2968 subscribers and is filled with news about announced or published research, developments within the collections (new acquisitions and additions, archives and datasets coming online), events and job openings.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Demographic research conducted by the IISH has established that mortality rates among young girls and women in the five Dutch shelters operated by the Roman Catholic congregation The Sisters of the Good Shepherd, were two to four times higher than average. These findings emerged from a collaboration between the Historical Sample of the Netherlands Database (HSNDB) at the IISH and the Radboud Group for Historical Demography and Family History, led by Rick Mourits. The research was featured in the four-part documentary VPRO documentary *Girls of the Good Shepherd*, broadcasted in June 2024.

HTIB

In honour of the 50th anniversary of Hollanda Türkiyeli İşçiler Birliği (HTIB – Turkish Workers' Association in the Netherlands), the IISH hosted a commemorative event during which memories were shared for the documentary *Fighters for Equal Rights – HTIB 50 Years*, directed by Nilüfer Öder and screened at Podium Mozaiek.



Rick Mourits filmed for Girls of the Good Shepherd

CNT-FAI

Filmmakers Toni Monné Campañà and Almudena Rubio visited the IISH to view material in our CNT-FAI archive while filming *Anita. La miliciana tenía nom.* Rubio identified previously overlooked works by photographer Antoni Campañà, including a photomontage of Anita Garbin, preserved in our archive. The documentary premiered at Memorigame. Festival Internacional de Cinema de Reus.



*The television programme
Nieuwsuur visits the IISH to
film a segment about the
biography of Theo van Gogh,
whose archive is managed by
the institute*



RESEARCH

One of the clusters of our Global Labour History programme focuses on slavery and coerced labour. As part of this effort, a team of PhD students and junior researchers, led by Matthias van Rossum and Filipa Ribeiro da Silva, is investigating the history of enslavement, resistance, and the slave trade in the Dutch, French, Portuguese, and Spanish colonial empires in Asia. Through ERC- and NWO-funded projects (*Resisting Enslavement*; *Voices of Resistance*, and *The Global Business of Slave Trade*), the team combines a micro-historical and global approach, focusing on actual people and processes, and sharing highlights of their work in progress in blogs published at voices.iisg.nl. To stimulate this type of research, IISH and Radboud University jointly established the Special Chair in Global Histories of Labour and Colonialism, currently held by Matthias van Rossum.

A crucial stimulus for our *Commodity Frontiers* research comes from the ERC Advanced Grant awarded to Ulbe Bosma. Together with two postdoctoral, two PhD researchers, and a team of student assistants, Bosma will assess the effects of commodity frontiers in the Global South during the nineteenth century. The project focuses on the seven most exported commodities of the time: sugar, cotton, coffee, tea, precious metals, opium, and cereals. In the coming years, the team will map the wide-ranging and diverse social consequences of the massive mobilization of labour and land necessary to produce these commodities.

Complementing this global perspective is a more local project with strong links to commodity frontiers: *A Just Energy Transition*, a post-doctoral research project led by Timon de Groot's and funded by a GAK-KNAW Award. This research project explores how workers influence their own futures during major energy transitions, with a particular focus on the role of collective bargaining in fostering socially just and inclusive outcomes. It compares the historical transition from coal to natural gas in the Netherlands (1963–1980) with today's shift toward renewable energy.

Population estimates are an important part of research into regional social and economic inequality. In October, Rombert Stapel presented the results of the NWO-funded project *(Re)counting the Uncounted*. The project aimed to replicate and test the findings of four cornerstone publications that provided medieval and early modern population estimates for the Netherlands and Belgium. Using advanced GIS methods, Stapel and his team were able to generate population estimates at a much more local level, providing a wealth of new and detailed demographic data. The resulting dataset are available [here](#).



Marileen Dogertom, Timon de Groot and Frederik Buijn

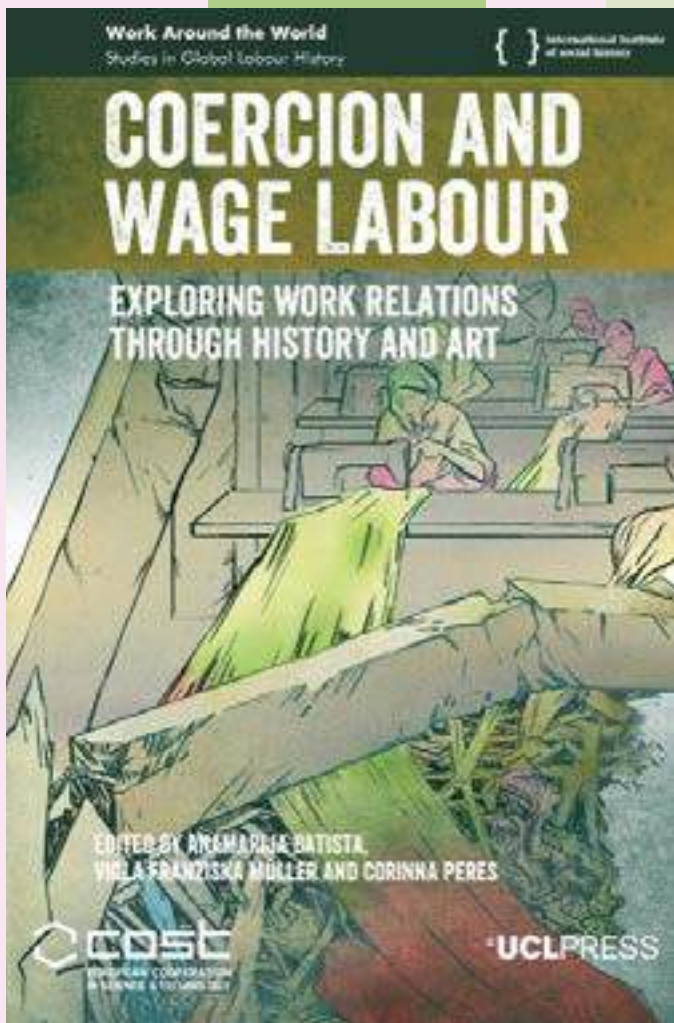
A grant from the European Social Fund to conduct research together with the Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV) enables us to start the project *Women Forward with Network V*. This project, led by Rosa Kösters, aims to promote gender equality in the workplace within the ICT and cleaning sectors. It does so by establishing, supporting, expanding, and researching women's networks that provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to better working conditions and transforming organizational culture. As part of the research component, the IISH conducts analytical studies of academic literature, archival material, and other sources to identify best practices developed elsewhere. In parallel, participatory research is carried out in the ICT and cleaning sectors to evaluate the effectiveness of these women's networks – examining how and when they are most impactful in practice.

The KNAW Strategiefonds awarded funding to *Fostering the Democratization of Heritage-Related Collection and Research through New Models for Citizen Science*, a collaborative project within the Huygens and Meertens Institutes. This initiative enables us to develop a citizen science pilot project, co-creating research questions, methodologies, datasets, and dissemination strategies in partnership with descendants of contract labourers from Javanese, Chinese, and Hindustani-Surinamese communities.



PUBLICATIONS

The Institute's oldest journal, the *International Review of Social History (IRSH)*, published thirty-nine articles in 2024. Following the discontinuation of the annotated bibliography in 2023, the number of book reviews has steadily increased, with forty-nine reviews published this year. As of 2024, the *IRSH* is published exclusively as an online journal. The number of downloads has continued to increase over this year, with a fifteen per cent rise compared to 2023, making *IRSH* the second most downloaded history journal published by Cambridge University Press. With the majority of new articles now published in open access, *IRSH* officially transitioned to a fully open access journal on 5 December 2024. Article processing costs are covered through agreements with a large number of institutions around the globe. For authors not affiliated with a participating institution, fees are always waived, making open access publication of articles in *IRSH* accessible for all authors.

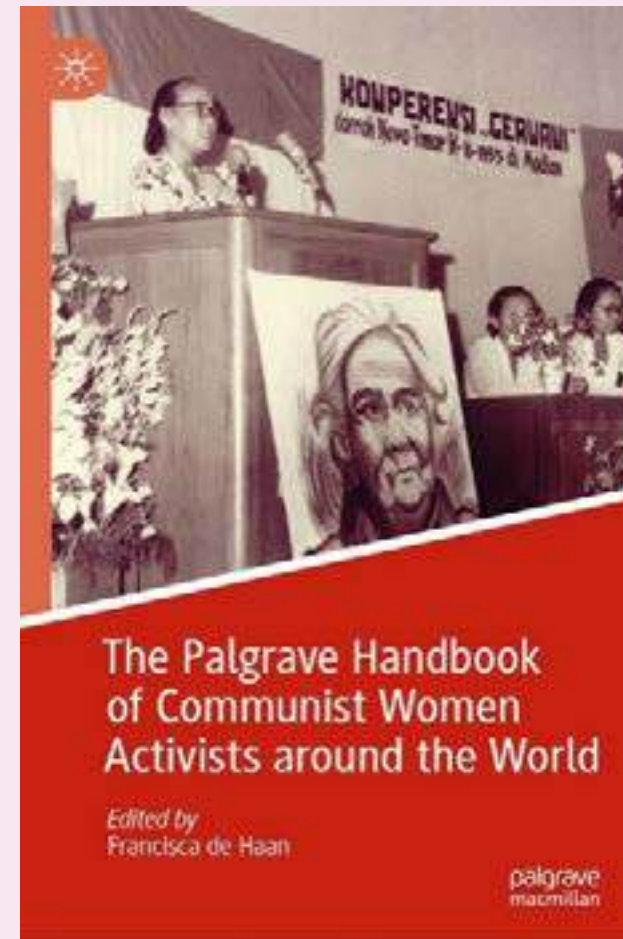


Openjournals.nl

The online publication platform for diamond open-access journals in the Netherlands openjournals.nl, was established in 2021 with support from the IISH. The platform currently hosts two journals based at the Institute: *TSEG/The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History*, which published nineteen articles in 2024, and *Historical Life Course Studies*, which published fourteen new articles. There are plans to add at least two more online journals to the platform. Another two issues of *On the Waterfront*, the bi-annual magazine of the Friends of the IISH, were published this year, featuring articles about new acquisitions, events, and research and collection projects.

Work Around the World

A new open access book series, *Work Around the World: Studies in Global Labour History* was started with UCL Press London in 2023. After the first volume, *Marcel van der Linden, The World Wide Web of Work: A History in the Making* was published that year, a second volume, *Anamarija Batista, Viola Müller and Corinna Peres (eds), Coercion and Wage Labour: Exploring Work Relations through History and Art* was published in January 2024. The book makes historical narratives accessible for interdisciplinary audiences. Most chapters are introduced with illustrations created by artists invited to visually conceptualize the book's key messages and to highlight the embodied and spatial dimensions of labour. In turn, the chapter texts engage with these artworks, generating a rich intermedial dialogue that offers mutually reflective "translations" and narrations of labour coercion.



Book presentation *Communist Women Activists around the World* by Francisca de Haan





DATA AND COLLECTIONS

Since 2019, the Data & Collections Department has undertaken several initiatives to improve internal workflows, introduce a new management philosophy, and explore how best to organize its work to meet the growing demands of new challenges and projects. The overarching aim is to create a resilient and forward-looking department capable of effectively managing a high and evolving workload.

At the beginning of 2024, an external consultancy provided recommendations to adopt a matrix model that balances ongoing core responsibilities with projects and larger tasks. This requires robust capacity planning and centralized portfolio management.

In the second half of the year, the department began defining new models for capacity planning, work categorization, project and portfolio management, and behavioural profiles. These foundations will inform improvements to work processes in 2025.

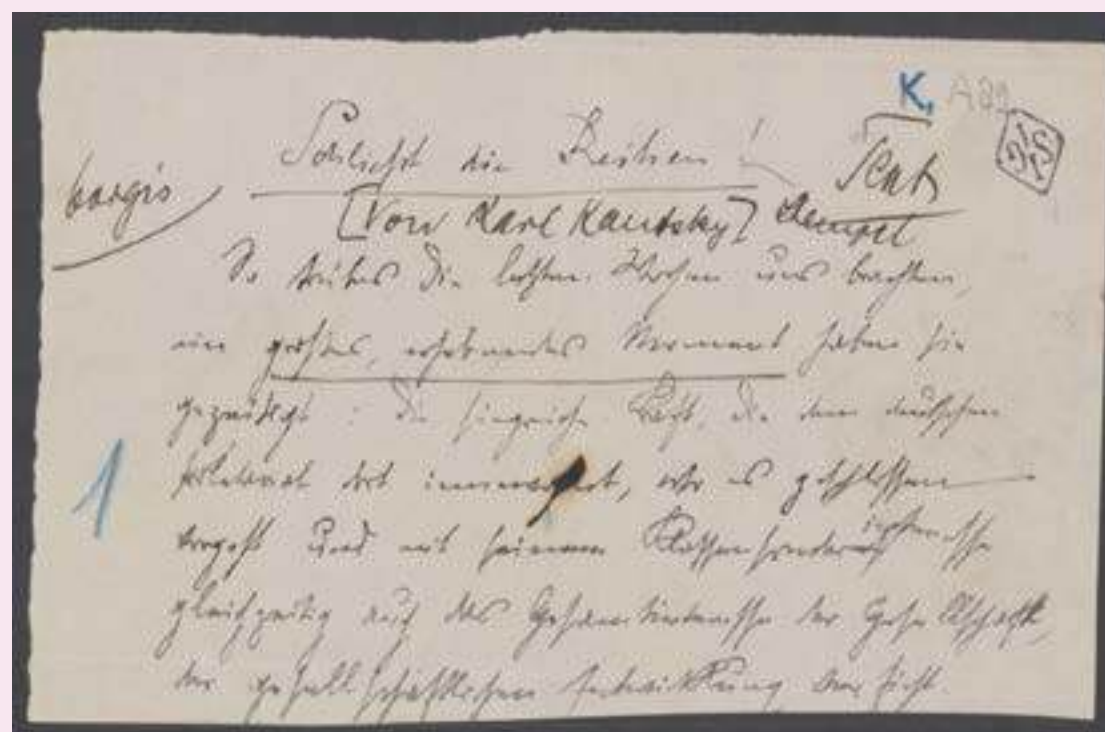
Werk aan Uitvoering

In 2024, the IISH continued working within the framework of the Dutch government's *Werk aan Uitvoering* (WaU) programme, which aims to make information systems more responsive to the needs and expectations of users, with an emphasis on public services and digitization. For IISH, this means increasing societal engagement, and strengthening our mission to provide sustainable access to information related to long-term developments around social and economic inequality, worldwide. The projects in the WaU programme directly support this strategy by improving the accessibility and inclusiveness of our collections.

Within WaU1 (*Archiving by Design*), a solid foundation was laid for the implementation of future projects. WaU2 (*Multi-Voiced Access to Data and Collections*) concerns two projects, started in 2024, aimed at improving the accessibility of non-Western archives. These include a large archive from the Moroccan Workers Movement in the Netherlands (KMAN) and several smaller archives related to the Dutch East Indies and Indonesia. Descriptions were enhanced by including the language of origin and involving members of the groups that created the material. WaU3 (*Societal Digitization*) initially focused on efforts to digitize and enhance the description of fragile audiovisual media to improve accessibility. Furthermore, we have begun to set up large-scale applications of advanced recognition techniques, including optical character recognition (OCR), handwritten text recognition (HTR), speech-to-text, and image recognition.

Within WaU4 (*Sustainable Infrastructure*) we started to optimize the administration surrounding our archives. Work included reviewing and formalizing contracts with archive creators to improve registration and access. An important goal is the renewal of our Core Trust Seal, with improvements in the digital infrastructure implemented in cooperation with HuC Digital Infrastructure. These upgrades will also benefit the user. The primary concern is to provide reliable, secure, and sustainable storage for sensitive data while exploring the possibility of reducing the environmental impact of both physical and digital storage. WaU5 (*Connecting Data*) supported the appointment of a researcher for the ESTA (*Exploring Slave Trade in Asia*) project. The intention is to publish the ESTA dataset as linked data and develop accompanying "data stories" to make insights accessible to non-academic audiences. Additionally, we have made the metadata of our archival inventories available as linked data. Finally, WaU6 (*Digitally Born Collections*) addresses the backlog in the processing of digitally born material. Significant preliminary work is needed before these materials can be fully processed and made available. To support this, an extra digital archivist was appointed to organize the basic records, assess the security of digital collections, and initiate the inventory process.

In 2024, the IISG marked its ten-year anniversary as a member and supporter of CLARIAH, with important contributions to the SSHOC-NL project. This project is a collaboration between ODISSEI and CLARIAH to further develop digital infrastructures for the social sciences and humanities in the Netherlands. The Data & Augmentation (DA) Department provides both a co-Principal Investigator and a task lead to strengthen the position of the [databases for historical and contemporary research](#) (HSNDB) in the national infrastructure landscape. In line with this, the Data and Augmentation Department, together with the Research Department and a large consortium of scholars and engineers, submitted a proposal to the NWO Research Infrastructure call: *LifeTree-NL*. This initiative aims to construct a comprehensive family tree of the Netherlands from 1750 to today. By connecting key national historical and contemporary databases, such as the Historical Database of Suriname and the Caribbean (HDSC) and CBS's System of Social Statistical Datasets (SSD), LifeTree-NL will open new research pathways into inequality research, while also strengthening collaboration within the Humanities Cluster. The IISH also maintained the Linked Data pipeline and prepared a new pipeline for the "finding aids" (fine-grained metadata for archival collections). The team provided support for the IISH Data Collection ([datasets.iisg.amsterdam](#)), which expanded by twenty-five new datasets and facilitated the publication of eight research articles in the [Historical Life Course Studies journal](#).



Karl Kautsky Papers: Schliesst die Reihen!

In 2024, processing work at the IISH continued steadily thanks to the dedication of our colleagues, even as the institute itself continued to evolve. A key moment was the retirement of Marja Musson, the head of collection processing since 2010. Her position was left open until the end of the year. In her final months before her retirement, Marja returned to the heart of the archival mission by tackling a long-standing backlog that had mysteriously accrued over the years: unprocessed archival materials, with little contextual information, often left behind by former employees central to IISH history. Through her efforts, Marja identified valuable additions and contextual material to some of our most prized collections, including but certainly not limited to [Kautsky](#), [Averink](#), [CNT](#), and [RSP](#). Processing is currently being finalized, and the items will be available soon.

This year also saw the successful completion of the FNV audiovisual collections project. Kier Schuringa has been instrumental in processing these audiovisual collections, which provide rich context to the paper archives. With the work on the [Beeldcollectie Vrouwenbond NVV/FNV](#), [Beeld- en geluidcollectie FNV Bondgenoten](#), and [Fotocollectie CNV](#) all completed in 2024, this significant archival effort comes to an end. See the website of [de Vrienden van de Historie van de Vakbeweging](#) for a full overview.

In addition to examples from the processed archives and collections, work also continued on the cataloguing of books. A small selection of all the books and brochures that were catalogued by Cornelia Dickhoff, Khuloud Tadmury, and Mieke Stroo this year includes:

- *The Encyclopedia of Iranian Terror Victims*, a harrowing yet significant book listing the names of 17,000 victims, published by Habilian, an Iranian NGO advocating for human rights.
- *Russkij Plakat*, a selection of Russian posters published between 1890 and 1997. The publication is closely linked to the IISH's extensive propaganda poster collection.
- *Rood verzetsfront*, a book on a Dutch radical left organization active in the 1970s and 1980s that endorsed the actions of the Red Army Faction. Among other things, the institute also holds the Stammheim Library.
- *The Palgrave Handbook of Communist Women Activists Around the World*, edited by research fellow Francisca de Haan. The book shows the role of women in communism, moving away from androcentric and Eurocentric narratives.
- *The modern traveller: a popular description, geographical, historical, and topographical, of the various countries of the globe* (1828), written by Josiah Conder, who never travelled by himself. He was an abolitionist, who spoke out against British anti-Jewish laws and became a founding committee member of the British anti-slavery society. These two volumes are on India.

Finally, efforts to make more digital material available, both through developing work processes for digital-born material and digitization projects, continued.

Public Services

In 2024, the Public Services Department welcomed a number of researchers in the reading room comparable to the pre-COVID years. Requests for access to materials and orders for scanned documents remained stable relative to other years.

There was a noticeable increase for workshops from student groups in the humanities, social sciences, and art, indicating a growing interest in how archives work and how to engage with the IISH collections. During these workshops, participants receive an introduction to the history and mission of the Institute and are informed about how the collection has been formed and made accessible. We also show students how to request and handle material. A total of thirty-two workshops were given in 2024, approximately one per week, taking into account university holidays.

Open Archief

Since 2020, the IISH has been involved in the joint *Open Archief* project, together with Sound & Vision and New Institute. This initiative promotes creative reuse of archival material, especially among artists, and has led to several exhibitions and workshops aimed at collaboration between artists and heritage institutions. In 2024, the project was relaunched with a new focus: to record all this knowledge in the form of a book: *Open Archief. Artistic Reuse of Archives*. This publication aims to paint a picture of archival reuse by artists and how they relate to archives and archival institutions. In doing so, we want to demonstrate to the archival community, and anyone else, that archive reuse is a form of co-creation, one that users can be a part of.

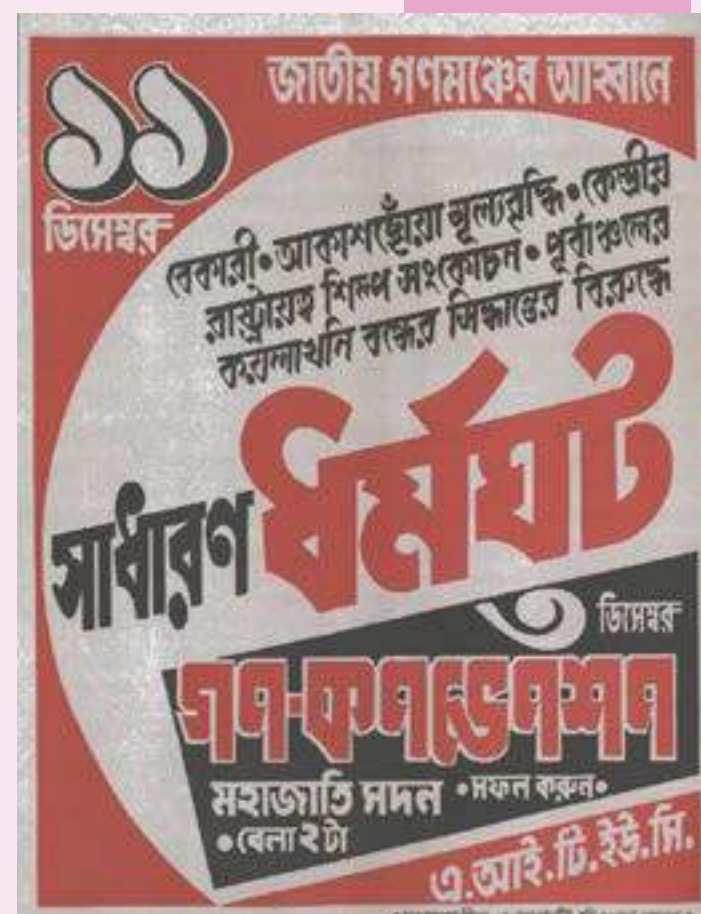
Collection Development

In 2024, we continued to invest in our relationships with key archive creators, such as the Partij van de Arbeid, Amnesty International, Greenpeace International, and La Via Campesina. We also responded to a growing number of offers of archival materials. While we welcome these contributions, we remain committed to curating our collections carefully and, where appropriate, suggest alternative destinations for materials that fall outside our profile.

The total volume of physical archive acquisitions increased significantly compared to the previous year, reach 117 metres (15 metres from the Netherlands, 102 metres from elsewhere). Among the highlights is the long-awaited accrual of the Socialist International archives, ca. 80 metres of papers dating from 1985 to 2015, plus image and sound, as well as born-digital documents. We hope this important material can be made available for research in the near future. Smaller in size, but of high research value are several other noteworthy acquisitions: the papers of the economist Arghiri Emanuel (1911–2001), who developed the theory of “unequal exchange”; the archives of the Dutch Stichting Multi Nationale Ondernemingsradenoverleg (MNO), dealing with work councils in multinational companies; correspondence between Dick Mohr and Bertha Ulmann, with eyewitness accounts from St. Petersburg of the 1905 and 1917 revolutions; a collection of documents of the Türkiye İşçi Partisi (Turkish Workers’ Party), 1965–1969, including the papers of one of its leaders, Mehmet Ali Aybar; a large accrual of the Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples archives; and a unique set of documents on the forced expulsion of Muslims from the Northern Province of Sri Lanka during the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983–2009).



Book launch *Open Archief*. Photo by Rob Verkerk



All-India Trade Union Congress

We continued our work on large-scale archive digitization projects in Africa and Asia, in which original archives and collections remain in their original locations while the IISH incorporates digital copies into its catalogue. Examples include the All-India Trade Union Congress, ITUC Africa, the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), the Zambian Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), and the Assembly of the Poor / Friends of People, Thailand. A major milestone was the completion of the project with the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) was finished after seven years. The achievement was celebrated with a festive meeting in Addis Ababa. The results of these projects will be soon available through the IISH catalogue. Exploratory talks for similar cooperation projects were held with Streetnet (Durban, South Africa), the Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Associations (Harare), and the Communist Party of India.

In Amsterdam, we worked on our projects with Extinction Rebellion NL and a group of undocumented migrant domestic workers. Both projects resulted in a report on the possibilities and challenges of continuing to work with them on preserving their archives. Much effort was put into appraising and pre-processing of, in particular, collections in Asia and Africa, such as the digitized Husayn Muruwah papers, the Sudan 1985 Civil Uprising Collection, our extensive collection of rare grey publications and periodicals in Farsi, two Turkish digital and digitized video collections, and the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Visual Archive. We contributed to several public events, seminars, and workshops, including the “rounding off meetings” of the ERC-DREAM project, with an exhibition of *8 Mars*, the journal of the grassroots Moroccan women’s organization L’Union de l’Action Féministe (UAF), and a workshop on archiving at CEDEJ Cairo, focusing on archives from and on Sudan.

*Hong Kong Umbrella
Movement Visual Archive*



CETU Digitization Project Addis Ababa

On 1 November 2024, a completion ceremony was held in Addis Ababa to mark successful conclusion of a six-year archival partnership between the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) and the IISH. The partnership has seen the rehabilitation, cataloguing, and digitization of CETU’s vast archive, which contains documentation of the Ethiopian trade union movement going back to its formation in 1962/1963. The archive constitutes an invaluable and unique source of Ethiopian labour history, as well as other aspects of social and political life in Ethiopia over the past six decades, including international trade unionism. The majority of the documents are in Amharic, although a few are in English, Oromo, and Tigrigna.

The active CETU-IISH partnership commenced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and a digitization training workshop in Addis Ababa in November 2018. Since then, 452,713 pages of documents have been catalogued, cleaned, labelled, and scanned. The papers have been moved from a rudimentary metal shed outside CETU’s headquarters to a newly refurbished archive room.

Two copies of the digital archive have been made and deposited with the respective institutions. The IISH has facilitated the installation of a workstation in CETU’s library in which visitors and researchers can now access the archive. It will also be made available in the institute’s reading room in Amsterdam.



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Most significant grants

ERC Advanced grant

Ulbe Bosma's project *Seven Frontiers: The Global South in the Age of Early Industrial Capitalism*.
€2,500,000

European Social Fund

The project *Women Forward with Network V* grant coordinated by Rosa Kösters in close collaboration with the Netherlands Trade Union Federation (FNV).
€1,000,000

GAK-Award

Timon de Groot's research project, *A Righteous Energy Transition*.
€300,000

Research project for the Municipality of Zaanstad

On the slavery history of the Zaanstreek region
€175,000

KNAW Strategiefonds

Marianne de Laet (Meertens Institute), Karin Hofmeester (IISG), Dirk van Miert (Huygens Institute) for *Fostering the Democratization of Heritage-Related Collection and Research through New Models for Citizen Science* almost €1,000,000

Metamorfoze

Digitize Indonesian archives (PIED)
€470,000

Metamorfoze

The digitization of oral sources
€40,000

Acquisitions

CATEGORY		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Archives: Length on 31 December 2024						
Archives: Total	Metres	19,039	19,115	19,234	19,262	19,505
Archives: Acquisitions and processed						
Archives: Acquired	Metres	279	235	143	74	117.4
Archives - Processed	Metres	320	76	119	28	242.63
Books: Inventory on 31 December 2024						
Books: Total	Numbers	926,772	931,435	943,554	946,586	949,680
Books: Acquisitions and processed						
Books: Acquired	Numbers	1259	1081	2409	1433	1290
Books: Increase	Numbers	1733	4663	12,119	3032	3094
Audio/Video: Number on 31 December 2024						
Audio/Video: Total	Numbers	22,948	23,020	23,852	24,933	27,387
Audio/Video: Acquisitions and processed						
Audio/Video: Acquired	Numbers	428	1431	1	135	755
Audio/Video: Increase	Numbers	52	157	832	1081	2454
Visual Materials: Acquisition and processed						
Visual Materials: Acquired	Numbers	1507	1,713,608	53,463	4703	250
Visual Materials: Increase	Numbers	36,115	31,619	42,612	12,915	7391
Periodicals: Length on 31 December 2024						
Periodicals: Total	Metres	13,042	13,037	13,073	13,089	13,096
Periodicals: Acquisitions and processed						
Periodicals: Acquired*	Metres	4.4	6.15	7.20	2.70	4.30
Periodicals: Increase	Metres	12.65	3.13	36.94	10.37	7.63
Digital Collections: Acquisition and processed						
Digital Collections: Acquired*	Terabyte	1.2	18	13	0.423	5.7

Public Services

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Archives requested	7230	6682	11,580	13,413	12,076
Books requested	3497	3497	5272	6123	5915
Journals requested	1547	1069	1715	1694	1945
Sound requested	32	38	30	32	83
Visuals requested	14	23	18	29	52
Moving images requested	12	15	1	0	1
Scans on demand (ask MvP)					
Permissions to view	329	271	377	330	372
Emails answered	5416	4548	3577	2468	2429
Registered visitors	338	0 (COVID)	699	864	712
Workshops (32 in 2024)					32
Loans to museums	15	13	12	33 items for 10 exhibits	95 items for 12 exhibits

Publications

	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	N	% OA	N	% OA	N	% OA	N	% OA	N	% OA
Articles PR*	42	69	35	80	34	68	25	84	23	52
Book chapters PR	31	26	20	25	27	26	18	6	7	0
Books PR	10	30	7	14	10	20	15	27	8	13
Books not PR	3	0	3	0	1	0	2	100	1	0
Articles & chapters non-PR	16	25	21	43	6	50	12	67	33	18
Datasets	75		3		2		37		7	
Press/media	40		17		41		83		21	
Talks & presentations	14		39		40		145		40	

*PR= Peer Reviewed

Social Media

CATEGORY		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FACEBOOK	Likes		8113	8200	8267	8300
	Followers		8680	8678	8675	8785
INSTAGRAM	Followers	1017	1439	1572	1700	2105
TWITTER	Followers	6211	7113	7280	7420	7544
LinkedIn	Followers	1706	2073	2140	2363	3140

Events at the IISH

2024	Date	Theme	Place	In Collaboration With:
	9-1-2024	Lecture Francisca de Haan – Communist Women Activist around the World	IISG	
	18-1-2024	Roundtable: <i>De Spanjestridders en Ik</i>	IISG	Laura Lubbers
	8-2-2024	Volkskrant-IISG Scriptieprijs	IISG	Volkskrant
	7-2-2024 – 9-2-2024	Workshop “Formulaic Language” (REPUBLIC project)	IISG	Huygens
	13-2-2024	Lecture Bas Spliet – “Bad and Old”: The Rise and Fall of Popular Painting Ownership in Amsterdam, 1630–1780	IISG	
	15-2-2024	Movie screening and talk <i>De handen van het Cruquiseiland</i>	IISG	Anna Dabrowska
	29-2-2024	Vriendenbijeenkomst	IISG	
	1-3-2024	Lecture Ramin Jahanbegloo – Mapping Civil Resistance in Modern and Contemporary Iran.	IISG	Prince Dr Sabbar Farman - Farmaian Research Project (PSFRP)
	5-3-2024	Ontmoet Rosa Luxemburg – Opening Rosa Luxemburg art exhibition	IISG	PhArt Amsterdam
	6-3-2024	REPUBLIC Meeting – Rekesten als archiefbron	IISG	Huygens
	6-3-2024	Palestine in Focus – Boycotts: Their Role in Addressing Historical Injustices.	IISG	
	11-3-2024	Research Presentation “Van slavernij tot liefdadigheid?”	IISG	Insinger Stichting
	13-3-2024	Evening programme – Presidential Elections in Russia: Past, Present, Putin	IISG	The Moscow Times
	9-4-2024	Lecture Cassandra Mark-Thiesen – Re-viewing early postindependence history journals from Africa	IISG	
	12-4-2024	CGM-Studiedag “Arbeidsmigratie toen en nu”.	Radboud University	CGM, CMR
	14-5-2024	A Linked, Usable Collection	IISG	
	15-5-2024	Palestine in Focus: Reproductive warfare and “The Right to Life” in Palestine	IISG	
	16-5-2024	Book Presentation – Görkem Akgöz – <i>In the Shadow of War and Empire</i>	IISG	
	29-5-2024	Palestine in Focus – Settler Colonialism in Palestine: Past and Present	IISG	
	30-5-2024	OpenJournals Gebruikersdag	IISG	OpenJournals, HuC
	4-6-2024	Lecture Maria Candido – Wealth, Land and Property in Angola	IISG	
	6-6-2024	IISG Vriendenbijeenkomst	IISG	
	13-6-2024	Palestine in Focus: “Silence for Gaza” – 76 Years of Ongoing Nakba in Palestine	IISG	
	19 & 20-6-2024	Summer School Archives of Power/the Power of Archives	IISG	Huizinga Institute Research Network
	24-6-2024	Kites of Transformation Iran: Women, Life, Freedom	IISG	Hope Box art campaigns
	25-6-2024	Palestine in Focus: Organising for Palestine - Past and Present	IISG	
	9-9-2024	Palestine in Focus: Multinationals op de werkvloer	IISG	
	10-9-2024	Lecture Eline van Ommen – Nicaragua Must Survive	IISG	
	20-9-2024	Fluxus Corpum: De invloed van familiegeschiedenis op kunst	IISG	Museum Perron Oost, Semester 9

	26-9-2024	NDE Karavaan	IISG	Netwerk Digitaal Erfgoed
	8-10-2024	Lecture Zhanna Popova – Coerced Labour, Forced Displacement and the Soviet Gulag 1880s – 1930s	IISG	
	10-10-2024	Arbeidsinspectie in een Mondiale context	IISG	
	11-10-2024	Insinger Stichting dialoogbijeenkomst	IISG	Insinger-Stichting,
	15-10-2024	Lecture Benjamin Barson – Brassroots Democracy: Maroon Ecologies and the Jazz Commons	IISG	
	16-10-2024	Symposium (Re-)Counting the Uncounted	IISG	
	22-10-2024	Pride and Prejudice: Misverstanden over de 17de eeuw	IISG	Huygens, deBuren, Maand van de Geschiedenis
	24-10-2024	Film en gesprek: Illuminando de Indische Buurt	IISG	Fonds voor Oost
	01-11-2024	Symposium Maritiem Portal Huygens	IISG	Huygens
	8-11-2024	Workshop Planetary Food Commons	IISG	NIAS
	12-11-2024	Lecture Michelle Carmody – Amnesty Becomes International	IISG	
	22-11-2024	Posthumus College Debates in Global History	IISG	Posthumus Instituut
	21 & 22-11-2024	Conference Tolerant Migrant Cities	IISG	Leiden University
	26-11-2024	Final Presentations of the Global Slavery Fellowship Programme	IISG	Amsterdam Global Slavery Fellowship Programme
	28-11-2024	KLEIO Boekenborrel	IISG	KLEIO
	3-12-2024	Bezoek Koning Willem Alexander	IISG	KNAW
	6-12-2024	Posthumus-college Debates in Global History	IISG	Posthumus Instituut
	10-10-2024	Helle Stenum – Film and Talk: The Sad Truth	IISG	