

CV ERNST VAN DEN HEMEL

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APPOINTMENTS

Professor by Special Appointment of Religion in Heritage and Popular Culture, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Utrecht University.	May 2025 - Present
Senior researcher at the Meertens Institute and NL-Lab, KNAW	October 2019 - Present
Postdoctoral researcher, Meertens Institute, KNAW	September 2016 - October 2019
Secretary/Researcher, Exploratory Committee on Theology and Religious Studies, KNAW	September 2015 - October 2016
Postdoctoral researcher CHCI consortium, Center for the Humanities, Utrecht University.	August 2014 - December 2016
Research Fellow Center for the Humanities, Utrecht University.	August 2013 - August 2014
Docent Liberal Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam University College	August 2011 - December 2016
Lecturer in Cultural Analysis / Literary Studies, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam	August 2007 - August 2011
Lecturer in Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies,	September 2010 -

University of Amsterdam

August 2013

PhD candidate in the History of Christianity, University of Amsterdam
(NWO project Future of the Religious Past)

August 2006 - July
2011

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Training Praktisch Leidinggeven

Januari – Mei
2026

Senior Kwalificatie Onderzoek (SKO-z)

Oktober 2025

Personal Leadership for Academics Course, Linda van der Wal
Training and Advice

July 2018 -
July 2019

Grant Writing, Mennen Training and Consultancy,

September 2017-
December 2017

Basic Education Qualification (BKO)

2014

PhD in History of Christianity, University of Amsterdam. Supervisor:
Prof. Dr. M.B. Pranger

5 July 2011

Research MA in Cultural Analysis (cum laude), University of
Amsterdam and Université Paris 8/École Normale Supérieure.
Supervisor: prof. Dr. A. Badiou.

2006

Bachelor of Literary Studies and Philosophy, University of Amsterdam

2004

RESEARCH PROJECTS, AS (CO-)MAIN APPLICANT

Total research funding acquired

2.962.000 €

MAKEBELIEF: The Religious Politics of Theme Parks in the 21st

2.000.000 €

Century — ERC Consolidator Grant. December 2023-December 2028. Role: P.I.

‘Wie is de trol? Kruip in de huid van de moderator en verbeter het trollen algoritme’ NWO Grant Science Communication — NWO Science Communication Grant. September 2022-September 2024. Role: co-applicant 132.000 €

INREACH: Visual Anthropological Exploration of Religion and Heritage — KNAW Grant. September 2022 - Augustus 2024. Role: main applicant & Co-P.I (icw Markus Balkenhol) 50.000 €

Better informing citizens about current debates: moderating and summarizing online discussions — KNAW Grant. September 2020 - September 2025. Role: co-main applicant and P.I of the subproject at the Meertens Instituut. 500.000 €

Populisme, Sociale Media en Religie: KNAW Startimpuls NWA. 2018-2022. Role: main applicant and P.I. 260.000 €

Postsecular Nationalism. Seed money focusgebied Cities, Cultures, Human Rights, Universiteit Utrecht. 2015- 2016 , icw Eva Midden. 10.000 €

SUPERVISION OF PHD CANDIDATES

Ongoing

Rachel Blokhuis-Koopman
(co-promotor Prof. Dr. I. Stengs (Meertens/VU) February 2024-Present

Sakina Loukili
(co-promotor Prof. Dr. I. Stengs, Meertens/VU) October 2018-Present

Completed

Cedric Waterschoot
(co-supervisor Prof. Dr. A. van den Bosch, UU) August 2020-November 2024

PUBLICATIONS

KEY PUBLICATIONS

'Magnifying Heritagized Religion in Miniature Parks: The Mosques and Churches of Madurodam & Miniaturk' *Secular Studies*, volume 7, 2025.

'To Applaud or Not To Applaud? Bach's Saint Matthew Passion in the Netherlands and the Management of Sacrality' *Managing Sacralities: Competing and Converging Claims of Religious Heritage* (co-edited with Irene Stengs, and Oscar Salemink), Berghahn 2022.

'Social media and affective publics: Populist passion for religious roots' *European Memory in Populism: (Mis)Representations of Self and Other*, editors: Chiara de Cesari and Ayhan Kaya, Routledge, 2019.

'The Dutch War on Easter: Secular Passion for Religious Culture & National Rituals' In: *Yearbook of Ritual and Liturgical Studies*, volume 33, 2017.

'(Pro)claiming Tradition: The "Judeo-Christian" Roots of Dutch Society and the Rise of Conservative Nationalism. In: 'The Postsecular Condition, ed. Rosi Braidotti et. al., Palgrave MacMillan, 2014, p.14-33

PUBLICATIONS (SCIENTIFIC)

Books

Religie op Drift: de vele betekenissen van religie anno nu. Nijmegen University Press, 2026 (forthcoming)

Managing Sacralities: Competing and Converging Claims of Religious Heritage (co-edited with Irene Stengs and Oscar Salemink), Berghahn, 2022

The Secular Sacred. Emotions of Belonging and the Perils of Nation and Religion, (co-edited with Markus Balkenhol & Irene Stengs), Palgrave, 2020.

Passie voor de Passie: De Matthäus, The Passion en andere passiespelen in ontkerkelijkt Nederland. Ten Have, 2020.

Words: Religious Language Matters, Fordham University Press, New York: 2016. Peer-reviewed edited volume. (co-edited with Asja Szafraniec).

Alain Badiou Inesthetiek: Filosofie, Kunst Politiek, Jan van Eyck Academy & Octavo, Maastricht & Amsterdam: 2012 (co-authored with Joost de Bloois)

Tracing Circles: Literary Dimensions in John Calvin's Institutes (dissertation), University of Amsterdam, 2011.

Calvinisme en Politiek: Tussen Verzet en Berusting Boom, 2009.

Articles (33)

"Introduction to Section Religious Heritage," Co-authored with Jan-Willem van Henten in: *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Cultural Heritage and Conflict*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, pp. 1–6. 2026.

'De comeback van de christen? Over de mediareceptie van God in Nederland en een pleidooi voor opportunisme' in *Religie & Samenleving*, vol. 20, nr 3. 2025.

Magnifying Heritagized Religion in Miniature Parks: The Mosques and Churches of Madurodam & Miniaturk' in *Secular Studies*, volume 7, 2025.

'Pre-enacting the Passion: Restaging Religious Heritage, Producing Unruly Audiences' co-authored with Irene Stengs. In: *The Future of Religious Heritage: Entangled Temporalities of the Sacred and the Secular*. ed. Ferdinand de Jong, José Mapril. Routledge, 2023.

'Introduction: Management of Religion, Sacralization of Heritage'. Co-authored with Oscar Saleminck and Irene Stengs. in: *Managing Sacralities: Competing and Converging Claims of Religious Heritage* (co-edited with Irene Stengs, and Oscar Saleminck), Berghahn 2022

'To Applaud or Not To Applaud? Bach's Saint Matthew Passion in the Netherlands and the Management of Sacrality' in: *Managing Sacralities: Competing and Converging Claims of Religious Heritage* (co-edited with Irene Stengs, and Oscar Saleminck), Berghahn 2022.

'Postsecular Meaning Making? Why Contestations of Heritagized Church Buildings Matter' in *Handbook of Religion and Heritage in Contemporary Europe*, editor: Todd Weir, Bloomsbury 2023.

'Calculating Argument Diversity in Online Threads'. / Waterschoot, Cedric; van den Bosch, Antal; van den Hemel, Ernst. 3rd Conference on Language, Data and Knowledge (LDK 2021). redactie / Dagmar Gromann; Gilles Sérasset; Thierry Declerck; John P. McCrae; Jorge Gracia; Julia Bosque-Gil; Fernando Bobillo; Barbara Heinisch. Vol. 93 Dagstuhl, Germany : OASICS Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany, 2021. blz. 39:1-39:9 (Open Access Series in Informatics (OASICS)).

'Distributing thickness of skin: Of Calloused Minorities and Fragile Majorities' in: *Patterns of Prejudice*, 2021.

'Christian Atheism' on Twitter: Dutch Populism and/as Culturalized Religion.' in: *Religion, Secularism and Political Belonging*, editor: Leerom Medovoi, Duke University Press, 2021.

'Keyword: Nationalism', in: *Religion, Secularism and Political Belonging*, editor: Leerom Medovoi, Duke University Press, 2021. Co-authored with Markus Balkenhol

'Who leads Leitkultur? How populist claims about 'Christian Identity' impact Christian-Democracy in Western Europe' in *JRAT Journal of Religion and Transformation in Society*, vol. 5 issue 2.

'Social Imaginaries and Borders: Introduction' *JRAT Journal of Religion and Transformation in Society*. (co-authored with Laurens ten Kate), vol. 5 issue 2, 2019.

The boomerang-effect of culturalized religion: nativist affect versus non-consensus-based collaboration' in: *The Secular Sacred. Emotions of Belonging and the Perils of Nation and Religion*, (co-edited with Markus Balkenhol & Irene Stengs), Palgrave, 2019

'The Secular Sacred. Emotions of Belonging and the Perils of Nation and Religion: Introduction' with Markus Balkenhol & Irene Stengs, in: *The Secular Sacred. Emotions of Belonging and the Perils of Nation and Religion*, co-authored with Markus Balkenhol & Irene Stengs, Palgrave, 2019.

'Odd Bedfellows, New Alliances: The Politics of Religion, Cultural Heritage and Identity in the Netherlands', in *Trajecta: Religion, Culture and Society in the Low Countries*, 2019

'Social media and affective publics: Populist passion for religious roots' in: *European Memory in Populism: (Mis)Representations of Self and Other*, editors: Chiara de Cesari and Ayhan Kaya, Routledge, 2019

'Zwarte Pieten, Moskeeën en Zoenende Mannen: Katholiek Activisme van Cultuur onder Vuur en de Culturalisering van Religie' co-auteur Markus Balkenhol. *Religie en Samenleving*, nr 1, 2019.

'Undocumented Citizenship' in: *Posthuman Glossary*, editors: Rosi Braidotti, Maria Hlavajova, Bloomsbury, 2018.

'Postsecular Nationalism: the Dutch Turn to the Right & Cultural-Religious Reframing of Secularity' in: *Social Imaginaries in a Globalizing World*, editors: Hans Alma & Guido Vanheeswijck, De Gruyter 2018.

'The Dutch War on Easter: Secular Passion for Religious Culture & National Rituals' in: *Yearbook of Ritual and Liturgical Studies*, volume 33, 2017.

'Geestelijke Verzorging als antropologisch laboratorium van nationaal belang', in: *Religie en Samenleving*, 12, nr. 2/3, 2017, p.91-95, 2017.

'Hoezo Christelijke Waarden?' Postseculier nationalisme & uitdagingen voor beleid en overheid' in: *Tijdschrift voor Religie, Recht en Beleid*, issue 2, 2017.

'Reading Calvin's language: Nice Work if You Can Get It'. *Words: Situating Religion in Language*, editors: Asja Szafraniec, Ernst van den Hemel. Fordham University Press, 2016.

'So, Any More Deathless Questions? Religious Language and Ordinary Language Philosophy: History and Present'. *Words: Situation Religion in Language*, editors: Asja Szafraniec, Ernst van den Hemel. Fordham University Press, 2016.

'Ontworteling als rite de passage van Nederland: ironie, secularisme, nationalisme en literatuur' in: *Ontworteld: De Schrijver als Nomade*, red: Johan Goud, Uitgeverij Klement, 2015.

'(Pro)claiming Tradition: The "Judeo-Christian" Roots of Dutch Society and the Rise of Conservative Nationalism', in: *The Postsecular Condition*, ed. Rosi Braidotti et. al., Palgrave MacMillan, 2014, p.14-33.

'The Literary Comfort of Eternity: Calvin and Thoreau'. *Religion and Memory*, editors: Babette Hellemans. Fordham University Press, 2013.

'Things that Matter : the Extra Calvinisticum and Material Presence in Calvin's theory of the Eucharist'. *Things: Material Religion and the Topography of Divine Spaces*, editors: Dick Houtman, Birgit Meyer. Fordham University Press, 2012.

'De Fabel van het Medium: Over Jacques Rancière's De toekomst van het beeld en De fabel van de cinema. *Krisis*, issue 1, 2011.

'History and the Vertical Canon: John Calvin's Institutes and Samuel Beckett'. How the West Was Won: Essays on Literary Imagination, the Canon and the Christian Middle Ages. Brill Studies in Intellectual History, editors: Arjo Vanderjagt & Hent de Vries. 2010.

'Included but not Belonging: Badiou and Rancière on Human Rights' in: Krisis Journal for Contemporary Philosophy, issue 3, 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Utrecht University, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (2015-present)

Sporen van het Heilige	2026
Religie in het Publieke Domein (MA)	2023- 2025
Fundamentalisme in Christendom en Islam (BA)	2016 - 2020
Religie, Samenleving en Politiek (BA)	2016 - 2017
Religie en Geweld (BA)	2016
Ethiek, Mensenrechten en Tolerantie (BA)	2015 - 2016
Waarheid en Autoriteit (BA)	2015
Literatuur en Christendom (BA)	2015

Since 2015, I have regularly provided tutorials and internships (on secondment) and have acted as thesis supervisor for twenty BA and MA theses. In recent years, I have supervised tutorials on social media research, and I am currently supervising multiple research internship.

National Graduate School NOSTER (2018-present)

Using Tools to Study Religion and Social Media	2023, 2025
Intensive Reading Seminar	2018

University of Amsterdam, Department of European Studies, History and Religious Studies at the University of Amsterdam & Amsterdam University College (2006-2016)

Christianities in Historical Perspective (MA)	2012
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Religion and Violence (MA)	2011
Literature of Social Exclusion (BA)	2011
Big Books (BA)	2011
Introduction to Cultural Theory (BA)	2009
Classics: Death and Mourning (MA)	2008
Militancy vs Fundamentalism (MA)	2008
Tekstanalyse (BA)	2008
Inleiding in de Cultuuranalyse (BA)	2007
Literatuur, Theorie en maatschappij (BA)	2007
On the Edge: Between Literature and Religion (MA)	2007
On the Edge: Between Literature and Philosophy (MA)	2006
Zeven Meesterwerken (BA)	2006

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

President of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), since 2022.

Organizer of the EASR international conference 2027: Public Religion / Religious Publics

Member of the editorial board of the Journal Religie & Samenleving, since 2023.

Member of review committees for national museums and external review panels for academic programmes at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the University of Groningen, and the Theological University of Apeldoorn.

Affiliate member of Digital Humanities Lab, HUC, KNAW.

Member of the editorial board of JRAT, Journal for Religion and Transformation in Society, since 2017.

Member of SIMAGINE (Social Imaginaries in a Globalizing World, NWO Internationalization Humanities in collaboration with Laurens ten Kate, University for Humanistic Studies).

Co-organizer of the biennial NGG conference "Religion and Heritage: Futures for Religious Pasts" (in collaboration with Birgit Meyer, Jan Willem van Henten, and Irene Stengs), November 3-5, 2021, Amsterdam. See www.nggheritage.nl.

Projectorganisator Digital Methods Initiative UvA Summer School, The Constructive Turn, August 2021.

Research fellow Religion, Secularism, Political Belonging, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Summer 2014.

Peer reviewer for academic journals, including Religions, Ethnologia Europea, and Journal for Religion and Transformation in Society.

Guest researcher Rhetoric Department, UC Berkeley, 2010.