

CONFERENCE BOOK

19-21 June 2019
Groningen, The Netherlands



Religious Heritage in a Diverse Europe
New Directions in Practice, Policy & Scholarship

Welcome

Dear Conference Participant,

Welcome to Groningen and thank you for contributing to our conference. Our aim has been to create an encounter between scholars and heritage professionals, in order to discuss together how religious heritage is communicated, designed and experienced in diverse societies. We seek to identify how religious heritage might be used as a force of inclusion, rather than exclusion of religious minorities in Europe and beyond. We look forward to three exciting days together, in which we approach religious heritage from different perspectives: those of the academy, education, museums, and preservation, as well as those of religious and secular communities and organizations.

We wish you a productive and enjoyable conference visit, on behalf of the partners who made the conference possible and the entire conference team:

Todd Weir, Lieke Wijnia, Roos Feringa (University of Groningen)

Peter Breukink, Agmar van Rijn, Inge Basteleur (Groningen Historic Churches Foundation)

Sebastiaan van der Lans (Museum Catharijneconvent)

Lilian Grootswagers (Future for Religious Heritage Europe)

Anat Harel (Jewish Cultural Quarter)

Malachi Hacohen, Zohar Maor, Hilda Nissimi, Annebel Hofmans (INIRE/ RUG Summer School)

Contact us via: religiousheritage2019@rug.nl

Share your conference experiences online!

Conference hashtag: #RelHer2019





university of
 groningen

faculty of theology and
 religious studies

Centre for Religion and Heritage

The **Centre for Religion and Heritage** was established to promote scholarly exchange, train future professionals, advise external stakeholders and engage in public outreach work in the field of religious heritage. Its publications, projects and events provide a resource for scholars and students, heritage organizations and government, as well as churches and the wider public.

The CRH is the successor of the Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage, which has contributed to heritage work in the Netherlands over many years. Building on a long-term engagement with Christian heritage, the Centre draws on the research strengths of affiliated staff in ancient, Islamic, Jewish and Buddhist religious history as well as in theoretical investigations of the secularism and the post-secular.

The Centre for Religion and Heritage has a diverse staff with backgrounds in multiple disciplines. Its current research clusters include:

- Religious Past in Present Society (Prof. Dr. Todd H. Weir)
- Appropriation: Processes, Strategies, and Tactics (Dr. Mathilde van Dijk)
- Religion and Material Culture (Dr. Andrew J.M. Irving)
- Art and Religious Heritage (Dr. Lieke Wijnia)

The Centre provides a one-year **MA in Religion and Cultural Heritage**. This interdisciplinary programme focuses on a major trend at the interface of religion, identity, politics, and material culture: heritage studies. It also addresses a gap in critical heritage studies, studying the shifting place of religion in heritage debates. The programme challenges students to analyze and to contribute their own voice to these debates. Drawing on the strengths of an international interdisciplinary faculty, and the Centre for Religion and Heritage with its strong ties to local, national, and international heritage institutions and networks, the Centre encourages students to be passionate about learning how heritage is being used to forge new identities in the present.

www.rug.nl/thrs



THE
GRONINGEN
HISTORIC
CHURCHES
FOUNDATION

50
GK

50 JAAR
STICHTING OUDE
GRONINGER KERKEN



The Groningen Historic Churches Foundation Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken

The Groningen Historic Churches Foundation takes care of 91 churches located in the city and province of Groningen. By purchasing, renovating and maintaining these churches the Foundation is able to preserve our valuable cultural heritage for future generations.

The aim of the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation is: to preserve historic churches in the province of Groningen and to promote an appreciation of them.

The Historic Churches Foundation was established on May 13, 1969 at a time when many churches threatened to fall into serious and unacceptable decay. Thanks to the initiative of a group of very dedicated and motivated enthusiasts the foundation was set up for the purpose of safeguarding these derelict churches as religious heritage. This year we celebrate the foundation's 50th anniversary, and the conference 'Religious Heritage in a diverse Europe' is an important highlight in this festive year.

The Foundation endeavours to achieve its goal by purchasing, saving, restoring and managing monumental churches and their outbuildings and grounds and making them accessible to the public, and using the buildings and grounds for a purpose that is in keeping with their character as much as possible.



Groningen Historic Churches Foundation is committed to safeguarding both the fabric and function of Groningen's monumental churches and their environment. Fabric and function go hand in hand, because these old churches are not just valuable historic buildings, they are also meeting places and they always have been.

www.groningerkerken.nl/en

Museum Catharijne Convent

Museum Catharijneconvent is the national museum for the art, history and culture of Christianity in the Netherlands. The museum is situated in a medieval cloister and located in the historical city centre of Utrecht.

Museum and knowledge centre

The museum houses the most important collection of Christian (art)historical objects in the Netherlands with a special focus on the Middle Ages. The collection, of a high international importance, covers a wide spectrum of Dutch Christianity: from Roman Catholicism to the Orthodox churches of Protestantism (from July 7 until September 22, the museum shows *Bible Belt*, an exhibition about Dutch Orthodox Protestants). The museum is an international knowledge centre on Dutch religious heritage and as such works in close cooperation with universities, heritage institutions and other museums. Museum Catharijneconvent is a rijksmuseum, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

National projects

Museum Catharijneconvent not only organizes projects and exhibitions within its museum walls, but is also

the initiator of two national projects: *Feest! Weet wat je viert* (*Holidays! Know what you are celebrating*) and *Het Grootste Museum van Nederland* (*Dutch Museum Churches*). The educational project *Holidays! Know what you are celebrating* centres around the religious traditions we celebrate, such as Christmas, Chanouka, Sinterklaas, and Eid al-Fitr. The project, a cooperation with several Dutch museums and one museum in Suriname, is developed for primary school children. With the help of especially developed educational programs they discover the different backgrounds of religious feasts and their meanings.

Dutch Museum Churches centres on 16 religious monuments (14 churches and 2 synagogues) spread across The Netherlands. The project is developed based on the idea that Dutch religious buildings deserve more attention: they house the most beautiful religious objects, made by the most skilled artists and shown in impressive interiors. *Dutch Museum Churches* provides visitors with a museum experience when visiting these monuments through the use of a specially developed audio/video guides. As such, Museum Catharijneconvent is creating more awareness regarding religious heritage and the importance of preserving this heritage for future generations.

Religious objects *in situ*

Dutch Museum Churches is part of the efforts of Museum Catharijneconvent in preserving religious heritage found in the numerous churches and cloisters spread across the Netherlands. Experts working in the museum determine the significance of these objects, and act as advisors concerning responsible preservation management and also as mediators between former and new owners. Due to ongoing secularization, many religious buildings have to close their doors. Museum Catharijneconvent assists the owners and custodians of religious objects that have to be relocated as a result of this. As such, the museum makes sure that important objects remain part of the story of Christianity in the Netherlands.



Europe's religious heritage **matters**

Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) brings together people and organisations who want to save and protect Europe's religious heritage.

The organisation started as a grass roots movement in 2009, and since 2011 has been a not-for-profit organisation based in Brussels. It is the only independent, non-faith, not-for-profit European Network working to safeguard religious heritage. It is a diverse network with a strong academic anchor, including representatives from the universities of Girona, Leeds, Goteborg, Gotland and Leuven, also featuring well-respected organisations such as English Heritage, ENCATC, the Churches Conservation Trust, Museum Catharijneconvent, the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, and various religious organisations and local and national governmental departments. FRH provides a European-wide platform for cooperation, exchange of ideas and knowledge and project-building.

Today, the organisation has around 170 members in more than 35 countries, whose multidisciplinary nature reflects the diversity of those concerned by the future of Europe's religious heritage. FRH is one of the 28 European Cultural Networks supported by the Creative Europe Program and was a member of the EYCH2018 Stakeholders Committee set up to assist the European Commission in implementing the European Year.

"We have to convince people that religious heritage is not just for believers," Olivier de Rohan-Chabot, president of the Future for Religious Heritage, said in an interview in Paris. "Suddenly, we have realised that this is a problem that concerns our civilization." Since 2018, we are on the advisory board of the Centre of Religion and Heritage at Groningen University. We are very pleased to participate as a partner in the conference 'Religious Heritage in a Diverse Europe: New Directions in Practice, Policy & Scholarship'.

FRH is always looking for good partnerships to build initiatives in the area of culture; analysing existing research and practice, comparing different approaches, experimenting with innovative solutions, sharing information and developing joint positions on policy-making and European project building.

Through its' activities, FRH wants to underline the preeminent place of religious patrimony in Europe's cultural heritage and encourage the EU to develop a positive policy for its support. Religious heritage deserves a key position on local, national and European agendas!

A poll commissioned by Future for Religious Heritage, and conducted by Sociovision and Toluna in April 2014, showed that Europeans of all generations have a strong attachment to their religious heritage and want to safeguard it for the future.

It also reflected the fact that:

- 84% of Europeans think that religious heritage is part of their cultural heritage;
- 79% consider their preserving and protection is crucial for their community's current and future life;
- and 87% believe that churches and religious buildings should be open to tourism when they contain architectural and artistic treasures.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

For more information on our activities and how to become a member - please visit our website at:

www.frh-europe.org





jewish
cultural
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DISCOVER THE HIDDEN TREASURES AND MOVING HISTORY OF JEWISH AMSTERDAM

NEAR WATERLOOPLEIN

jewish
historical
museum

children's
museum

portuguese
synagogue

national
holocaust
memorial

national
holocaust
museum

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR INTERRELIGIOUS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The International Network for Interreligious Research and Education (INIRE) is a worldwide network of scholars, representing a collaboration of Bar Ilan University, FCIRE Bologna, Duke University, University of Groningen, University of Leipzig, University of Southampton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University.



Our goals:

- 1) Studying religious issues from interdisciplinary and interreligious perspectives.
- 2) Promoting interreligious knowledge among students and encouraging interreligious dialogue among scholars and the public.
- 3) Implementing our research to advance resolution of social issues.

The network focuses on research projects addressing religion in the postsecular age, holds an annual summer school and conference, and collaborates with other organizations advancing its interreligious agenda. Recent conferences and summer schools were held at Duke and Bar-Ilan (2017) and Leipzig (2018). INIRE is happy to be holding its summer school and conference in conjunction with the Groningen Conference "Religious Heritage in a Diverse Europe". Its panels are marked in the program and open to all.



Conference Program

Wednesday 19 June

08:30	Doors open	Remonstrantse Kerk
09:00-10:30	Pre-conference session Religious (II)Literacy & Education (INIRE) <i>Alberto Melloni (FSCIRE Bologna / INIRE)</i> <i>Francesca Cadeddu (FSCIRE Bologna / INIRE)</i> <i>Ayman Agbaria (University of Haifa/ INIRE)</i>	Kerkzaal
11:00-12:30	Pre-conference session The Heritage of Antisemitism (INIRE) <i>Dirk Hartwig (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften/ INIRE)</i> <i>Carolyn Sanzenbacher (University of Southampton/ INIRE)</i> <i>Maura Hametz (Old Dominion University/ INIRE)</i>	Kerkzaal
12:00-13:00	Registration	Entrance Remonstrantse Kerk
13:00-14:00	Plenary: Conference opening Frank Strolenberg (Rijksdienst Cultureel Erfgoed) Birgit Meyer (Utrecht University) Todd Weir (University of Groningen)	Kerkzaal
14:00-15:30	Parallel sessions Intangible Religious Heritage <i>Sophie Elpers (KIEN)</i> <i>Sebastiaan van der Lans (Museum Catharijneconvent) & Carolien Croon (Bijbels Museum)</i> <i>Marlous Willemsen (Imagine IC/ Reinwardt Academie)</i> <i>Julie Aerts (PARCUM)</i> <i>Discussant: Irene Stengs (Meertens KNAW/ VU University)</i> Church Foundations <i>Peter Aiers & Inayat Omarji (Churches Conservation Trust)</i> <i>Becky Clark (Church of England)</i> <i>Heikki Ranta (Church of Sweden)</i> Musealization of Religion (I) <i>Paul Aries (Reinwardt Academie)</i> <i>Carina Brankovic (University of Oldenburg/ INIRE)</i> <i>Hilda Nissimi (Bar-Ilan University/ INIRE)</i> Politics (I) <i>Christoph Baumgartner (Utrecht University),</i> <i>Katelyn Williams (Brandenburg University of Technology)</i> <i>Hannah Ridge (Duke University)</i>	Various rooms* Kerkzaal Catechesatielokaal Kerkeraadskamer Hemelkamer
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	Kerkzaal
16:00-17:00	Keynote 1: Abdullah Antepli	Kerkzaal
17:30-18:30	Reception	Academiegebouw

* The parallel sessions take place in various rooms: Kerkzaal, Kerkeraadskamer, Catechesatielokaal, Hemelkamer, and Tempelkamer. These rooms have various seating capacities. If the room of your first choice is occupied, please find another session to join in one of the other rooms. The Kerkzaal is the largest, and will have vacant seats at any time.

The abstracts of the parallel sessions can be found in the separate Abstracts Book.

Conference Program

Thursday 20 June

08:30	Doors open	Remonstrantse Kerk
09:00-10:30	Parallel sessions	Various rooms
	Values & Valuation	Kerkzaal
	<i>Sander Ummelen & Stephan Ummelen (Waardegedreven)</i>	
	<i>Karin Drda-Kuhn (SKIVRE)</i>	
	<i>Lilian Grootswagers (FRH Europe)</i>	
	Inclusive Heritage	Kerkeraadskamer
	<i>Tharik Hussain (Freelance Travel Writer)</i>	
	<i>Marcus Roberts (JTrails)</i>	
	<i>Juliet Carey (Waddesdon Manor)</i>	
	Between 'Sacreds'? (I)	Hemelkamer
	<i>Irene Stengs (Meertens KNAW/ VU University/ HERILIGION)</i>	
	<i>Welmoed Wagenaar (Meertens KNAW/ HERILIGION)</i>	
	<i>Jacobine Gelderloos (Protestant Church Netherlands)</i>	
	Holy Texts as Heritage (INIRE)	Catechesatielokaal
	<i>Zohar Maor (Bar-Ilan University/ INIRE)</i>	
	<i>Malachi Hacohen (Duke University/ INIRE)</i>	
	<i>Laura Mulayka Enriello (Interreligious Studies Academy/ INIRE)</i>	
	Dialogue through Heritage (I)	Tempelkamer
	<i>Jolanda Tuma (Protestant Church Netherlands)</i>	
	<i>Julie Aerts (PARCUM)</i>	
	<i>Ola Wetterberg & Eva Löfgren (University of Gothenburg)</i>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	Kerkzaal
11:00-12:30	Parallel sessions	Various rooms
	The Dance of Tangible & Intangible Heritage	Kerkzaal
	<i>Agmar van Rijn, Inge Basteleur, Christiaan Velvis (Groningen Historic Churches Foundation)</i>	
	<i>Paul Mulder, Albert Buring (Studio 212 Fahrenheit)</i>	
	<i>Marnix van der Scheer (MX13)</i>	
	<i>Anne Benneker (Local Group Church Garmerwolde)</i>	
	Between 'Sacreds'? (II)	Hemelkamer
	<i>Ferdinand de Jong (University of East-Anglia/ HERILIGION)</i>	
	<i>Daan Beekers (University of Edinburgh)</i>	
	<i>Nataliya Bezborodova (University of Alberta)</i>	
	Repurposing & Musealization	Kerkeraadskamer
	<i>Andrea Longhi (Pontifical Council of Culture/ Politecnico di Torino)</i>	
	<i>Anique de Kruijf (Museum Catharijneconvent)</i>	
	<i>Jerrold Cuperus (Utrecht University)</i>	
	Politics (II)	Catechesatielokaal
	<i>Arpad von Klimo (Catholic University of America)</i>	
	<i>Benjamin Schewel (University of Groningen)</i>	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Kerkzaal
13:30-16:30	Excursions	Various locations
	<i>(1) Groningen Historic Churches Tour</i>	
	<i>(2) Provincial Policy Tour</i>	
	<i>(3) Jewish Heritage Tour</i>	
	<i>(4) Art & Heritage Tour</i>	
16:30-18:00	Partner presentations	Der Aa-Kerk
	Keynote 2: Nicola Green	Der Aa-Kerk
18:00-19:00	Reception	Der Aa-Kerk
19:00-21:00	Conference dinner	Der Aa-Kerk

Conference Program

Friday 21 June

08:30	Doors open	Remonstrantse Kerk
09:00-10:30	Parallel sessions	Various rooms
	The Heritage of the Holocaust	Kerkzaal
	<i>Emile Schrijver (Jewish Cultural Quarter)</i>	
	<i>Susanne Urban & Susanne Flörke (ShUM Cities/ INIRE)</i>	
	<i>Skender Asani & Maja Sussha (Acta Non Verba/ INIRE)</i>	
	Lived Religion in Museums	Kerkeraadskamer
	<i>Marie Vejrup-Nielsen (Aarhus University)</i>	
	<i>Laura Maria Schutze (Roskilde Museum)</i>	
	<i>Sanne Andersen (Aarhus University)</i>	
	Multiple Uses of Religious Sites	Catechesatielokaal
	<i>Mar Griera (Autonomous University of Barcelona)</i>	
	<i>Franziska Dost (University of Leipzig)</i>	
	<i>Elza Kuijk (Utrecht University)</i>	
	Diversity in Documentation Archives	Hemelkamer
	<i>Hans Krabbendam (Radboud University)</i>	
	<i>Chris Dols (Centre for the Heritage of Dutch Monastic Life)</i>	
	<i>Wim Berkelaar (Vu University)</i>	
	<i>Kristien Suenens & Karim Ettourko (KADOC KU Leuven)</i>	
	Dialogue through Heritage (II)	Tempelkamer
	<i>Julia Martinez-Arino (University of Groningen) & Victor Sorensen (Eur. Association for Jewish Culture and Heritage)</i>	
	<i>Pooyan Tamimi Arab (Utrecht University)</i>	
	<i>Eva Löfgren (University of Gothenburg)</i>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	Kerkzaal
11:00-12:00	Keynote 3: Dimph Schreurs	Kerkzaal
12:00-12:10	Presentation Scholierenacademie	Kerkzaal

Conference Program

Friday 21 June

13:00-14:30	<p>Parallel sessions</p> <p>Summer School Round-Up</p> <p><i>Participants of the University of Groningen/ INIRE Summer School present their findings of the week-long religious heritage summer school</i></p> <p>Heritagization & Tourism</p> <p><i>Ruth Ellen Gruber (Website Jewish Heritage Europe)</i></p> <p><i>Melinda Harlov (Central European University)</i></p> <p><i>Harald Schwillus (Martin Luther Universiteit-Halle Wittenberg)</i></p> <p>Architecture & Religious Identity</p> <p><i>Kim de Wildt (Rühr Universität)</i></p> <p><i>Maria Arno (Warsaw University of Technology)</i></p> <p><i>Maria Nyström (University of Gothenburg)</i></p> <p>Historical Perspectives</p> <p><i>Babette Hellemans (University of Groningen)</i></p> <p><i>Doron Avraham (Bar-Ilan University/ INIRE)</i></p> <p><i>Fred van Lieburg (VU University)</i></p>	<p>Various rooms</p> <p>Kerkzaal</p> <p>Kerkeraadskamer</p> <p>Catechesatielokaal</p> <p>Hemelkamer</p>
14:30-15:00	Coffee break	Kerkzaal
15:00-16:00	<p>Parallel sessions</p> <p>Art & Imagination</p> <p><i>Brenda Bartelink (University of Groningen) & Gabriela Bustamante (Design that Matters)</i></p> <p><i>Mathilde van Dijk (University of Groningen)</i></p> <p>Musealization of Religion (II)</p> <p><i>Rabia Harmansah (University of Cologne)</i></p> <p><i>Emma McAllister (Queen's University Belfast)</i></p> <p>Church & Village Life</p> <p><i>Aike Rots (University of Oslo)</i></p> <p><i>Gerko Last (Stichting Alde Fryske Tsjerken)</i></p>	<p>Various rooms</p> <p>Kerkzaal</p> <p>Kerkeraadskamer</p> <p>Catechesatielokaal</p>
16:00-17:00	Plenary: Conference closing	Kerkzaal



Wednesday June 19. 16:00-17:00. Kerkzaal.

Secular and Religious Cultural Heritage: The Sanctity of Preservation Initiatives

Sacred texts of diverse religious traditions enjoin their followers “To Remember.” Religions, like civilizations more broadly, are bundles of memories, endeavors to hold on to stories enshrined in the collective imagination. Memories and stories compete and even contradict one another. It should not be impossible for multicultural and multi-religious societies that experience resurgence of religiosity to engage in preservation of diverse cultural heritage. This lecture explores how cultural preservation initiatives may become joint endeavors of secular and religious communities. It searches for intellectual and civic frameworks that reimagine cultural heritage in light of the changing demographic, political, and cultural landscape. What challenges and opportunities do recent changes pose to communities and institutions engaged in cultural heritage preservation? What possible partnerships could emerge between secular and religious initiatives, and what rifts may open between them?

The lecture will endeavor to answer these questions from a Muslim perspective, using first religious and then secular lenses. Religious communities in general, and Muslim European communities in particular, need to develop deeper appreciation of secular cultural heritage and endow the organizations and people engaged in its preservation with a measure of sanctity, as they preserve also religious memories through secular means. The lecture will envision how these imaginative interpretive moves may become possible by drawing on scriptural and theological resources. The Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, and the Al-Hamra Museum in Grenada could potentially serve as models.

Secular cultural heritage institutions need to improve their ability to tell the stories of religious spaces by partnering with religious communities. These institutions must transmit the religious and spiritual imagination that shaped religious communities as they perform their secular custodianship over cultural heritage. The lecture will discuss The New York Metropolitan Museum’s and other Western philanthropic efforts as examples. The success and failure of previous attempts shall serve as prisms for imagining new and better strategies.

Speaker

Imam Antepli completed his basic training and education in his native Turkey. From 1996-2003 he worked on a variety of faith-based humanitarian and relief projects in Myanmar (Burma) and Malaysia with the Association of Social and Economic Solidarity with Pacific Countries. He is the founder and executive board member of the Association of College Muslim Chaplains (ACMC) and a board member of the Association for College and University Religious Affairs (ACURA). From 2003 to 2005 he served as the first Muslim chaplain at Wesleyan University. He then moved to Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, where he was the associate director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program & Interfaith Relations, as well as an adjunct faculty member.



Encounters: The importance of art in creating and preserving a shared religious heritage

Nicola Green, globally acclaimed artist and social historian, will share her experiences as a witness to historic interfaith meetings. She will discuss her journey making her seminal artworks *Encounters*, and the accompanying academic book *Encounters: The Art of Interfaith Dialogue*, recently nominated for the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for Religion.

Green has spent the last decade travelling the world gaining remarkable access to private and public encounters between religious leaders including Pope Francis, The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former Grand Mufti of Egypt Ali Gomaa, and Emeritus Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. During this time, Green took thousands of photographs, and made countless drawings and notes, visually recording what most were unable to put into words. Green realised she was witnessing a new phenomenon: that religious leaders were beginning, for the first time in history, to publicly articulate their understanding and respect for other faiths, without compromising the absolute truth of their own beliefs.

Green combined this thesis and her visual records with meticulous academic research undertaken with Kings College and Cambridge University, deep theological consideration, and forensic analysis of the artefacts she had collected. She collaborated with the religious leaders themselves, ensuring the significance of the work they had been undertaking was documented, and reflected back to them, in a meaningful way. The resulting artworks, *Encounters*, is a series of over fifty ground-breaking portraits of the world's religious leaders. This is the first time in history that portraits of the world's major religions have been exhibited together, and with equal status. Each intricate portrait has been painstakingly constructed incorporating painting, photography, textiles, reverse glass painting, silk-screen printing and gilding. The uniquely complex backgrounds bring together hundreds of theologically significant elements. Sources include priceless manuscripts kept in the Vatican and Lambeth Palace libraries, an ancient Torah pointer, a Zoroastrian tile, Kufic calligraphy and a Sikh Kirpan amongst others in a treasure trove of sacred objects. *Encounters* is the embodiment of the interfaith meetings Green witnessed and an invaluable archive of religious heritage for future generations.

In the context of this journey and her personal experience, Green will discuss the role that art can play in fostering dialogue and how cultural exchange is enabled through the visual image. Green argues that throughout history European identity and culture has been constructed through interaction with 'others'. *Encounters* is a visual exploration of difference - how do people of different beliefs, or none, communicate and reconcile their strongly held and, sometimes, opposing views. How do we think about those we consider wholly 'other' to ourselves, and how does this shape our own identity?

Encounters is accompanied by an academic book *Encounters: The Art of Interfaith Dialogue* with essays by leading global scholars, theologians and art historians: Dr. Rowan Williams, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Prof. Ben Quash, Prof. Aaron Rosen, Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Prof. David Ford OBE, Revd William Danaher, Maryanne Saunders, Dr. Lieke Wijnia, Dr. Chloe Reddaway, Dua Abbas, Jibran Khan, Gabrielle Rifkind and Skinder Hundal.



Friday June 21. 11:00-12.00. Kerkzaal.

Co-creating impact

Museum Catharijneconvent, national museum of christian art and heritage, is initiator of the national project Holidays! What are we celebrating for children aged four to twelve. This project is a co-creation with a number of museums and cultural institutions throughout the country. Together, we develop educational programs and exhibitions that encourage children to engage in inter-religious dialogue with each other. Holidays serve as departure point to talk about each other's backgrounds. Understanding one's own background and that of class mates, stimulates the process of social inclusion. This keynote sheds light on the way the national collaboration co-creates these programs and presents examples and effects of the various programs.



Speaker

Dimphy Schreurs graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Maastricht and got her master's degree of Art History at the University of Utrecht. She worked as a museumteacher and developer of educational programmes in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, as a senior educator in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and is currently head of Public & Education in Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht.

Plenary Sessions

Wednesday June 19

13:00-14:00. Conference opening, Kerkzaal

The opening session welcomes all participants and sets the agenda for the conference, by posing questions and challenges in for those working with religious heritage in Europe.

Speakers:

Todd Weir, University of Groningen

Frank Strolenberg, National Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE)

Birgit Meyer, Utrecht University

Thursday June 20

16:30-18:00. Conference event, Der Aa-Kerk

During this event in the monumental Der Aa-kerk at the historic heart of Groningen, special guests from our partner organizations will present their visions for religious heritage in Europe.

Speakers:

René Paas, King's Commissioner for the Province of Groningen

Marieke van Schijndel, Director Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht

Peter Breukink, Director, Groningen Historic Churches Foundation

Todd Weir, Director Centre of Religion and Heritage, University of Groningen

Lilian Grootswagers, Council member & Honorary Secretary of Future for Religious Heritage (FRH), Brussels

Anat Harel, Associated researcher Jewish Cultural Quarter, Project manager National Holocaust Museum in development

Friday June 21

12:00-12:10. Presentation Scholierenacademie, Kerkzaal

The Scholierenacademie (Children's University) of the University of Groningen organized a children's conference about heritage, in conjunction with our conference. During this presentation, Anita Warmelink shares insights and footage of this event.

16:00-17:00. Conference closing, Kerkzaal

During the final conference session, questions and challenges posed during the opening session will be evaluated, by means of which the agenda for future debates on religious heritage in diverse societies will be set.

Thursday 20 June, between 13.30-16.30.

Excursions

The conference program includes four parallel excursions. You can only attend one of the excursions, if you have pre-registered via e-mail. All excursions depart from the main conference location (Remonstrantse Kerk).

(1) Groningen Historic Churches Foundation (Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken) Feast! In East and West-Tour: Site visit to an important new location in the Feast! education program of the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation in the village of Garmerwolde. Get a look behind the scenes of the ambitious restructuring project at this religious heritage site and discover the plans for the future education activities that will take place here.

Important: this excursion is by bike only! Bikes are arranged by the organization.

(2) Provincial Policy Tour: Excursion to a selection of heritage projects in and around the Province of Groningen. The province of Groningen has numerous special and historic churches. This heritage is under pressure because of depopulation and the consequences of gas drilling. The situation demands choices, because preservation is not a self-evident given. In discussion with local communities, solutions are sought to prevent (future) disuse. This can lead to remarkable solutions. Together with representatives of the Province of Groningen and the National Heritage Agency you'll discuss religious heritage policy-making.

(3) Jewish Heritage Tour: a tour of the monumental synagogue in Folkingestraat, built in 1905-1906 in Moorish style, or (depending on the number of participants) a guided walking tour along remnants of the former 'Jewish neighborhood' of Groningen in the vicinity of the synagogue. The afternoon will close with a group discussion of topics relevant to Jewish heritage today, at the Folkingestraat synagogue.

(4) Art & Heritage Tour: Museum Helmantel in Westeremden, where artist Henk Helmantel has established his museum and studio in a monumental vicarage/ farm in the historic village. Helmantel will share his experiences with the repurposing of this location, and his art project about interiors of European churches and monasteries.

This is an excursion by the Grone (a touristic themed-bus), arranged by the organization.



Conference Locations



Main conference location

Remonstrantse Kerk
Coehoornsingel 14, 9711 BS, Groningen

Photo © SOGK Omke Oudeman



Wednesday evening reception

Academiegebouw (Academy Building)
Broerstraat 5, 9712 CP, Groningen

Photo © UG Peter van der Sijde



Thursday afternoon/ evening event

Der Aa-Kerk
Akerkhof 2, 9711 JB, Groningen

Photo © SOGK Omke Oudeman

Pinhole photography

Exhibition in the Remonstrantse Kerk

In the Golden Age, the 17th century, painters already made use of the effect of light through a small hole, the so-called 'pinhole effect'. This allowed them to see a two-dimensional projection of reality, which made subjects that are difficult in terms of perspective, like landscapes or a room, easier to paint. The projection of the image could take place in a box, or wall-filling in a darkened room (camera obscura). Many early photos were also made using this technique: the image was captured on a plate that was light-sensitive and could fix the image.

From June 18th to December 30th 2019 there is an exhibition of church photos, which are made with the use of this old technique. The exhibition is on show in 'the blob', the glass entrance building of the Remonstrant church. Photographers Janna Bathoorn and Jan Alwin de Jong (Studio Stedum) have made color photographs in and around churches of the Old Groninger Churches Foundation. Churches that have visually interesting elements, such as hagioscopes, murals, extraordinary architectural features, or churches that simply are beautiful in the landscape. The colored pictures, especially made for this exhibition, are presented amongst black and white photographs the duo as taken in recent years.



Passers-by

94 users of Groninger Churches photographed by Taco Anema

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation, the exhibition Passers-by is presented, a series of photographs portraying users of Groninger churches. These groups of people show the ancient but vivid tradition of living together with the church building. Passers-by is a tribute to the human hands that carry the monuments to the future. They transform the medieval church into a touristic hotspot, cultural stage, place of contemplation, village living room, rehearsal room, restaurant, studio, museum or educational site. The Passers-by collection presents a series of photographs of Taco Anema, whose work is among others part of the collection of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

The photos have the unique quality of carving themselves into your memory, like modern classics. The photos are shown in an intriguing installation, designed by Studio 212Fahrenheit. Passers-by offers a view of the surprising variety in the use of old Groninger churches. Passers-by offers a fascinating game of moving from standstill. An immobile church building, set in motion by lively use. Active users are captured in the context of the photographic composition. That moment solidified in the photo is brought to life in an installation of inexorably passing image. Visitors stand still to be able to watch it- and then come to new insights, new thoughts – they start moving. Passers-by presents the church as a place of reflection. You watch Passers-by, but at the same time you see yourself reflected: the passer-by who visits an exhibition. A passer-by who pays attention to time passing by. Do you see yourself in the church? What significance do these beacons have for you? Would you also like to be part of the group that carries these old buildings to the future? We hope to welcome you!

Passers-by can be visited on Friday June 21, from 14.00 in the Der Aa-kerk, A-kerkhof 2, Groningen. After the closing plenary at 17.00, the exhibition will be opened for an extra hour until 18.00. In your goodiebag you'll find a ticket for free entrance; you can also mention at the entrance that you are a participant of the conference.

The installation by Studio 212Fahrenheit can be adopted by another organization in another country. More information: Agmar van Rijn / vanrijn@groningerkerken.nl / www.tacoanema.nl / www.212f.nl

Watch the film via:



Children's Conference

Pre-University Academy (*Scholierenacademie*) of the University of Groningen and the Groningen Historic Churches Foundation organize a parallel Children's Conference on Wednesday June 19.

The Children's Conference is especially designed for children aged ten and eleven, who come with their school classes to the Der Aa-church in Groningen. They will be presented with a special conference program including a workshop by dr. Brenda Bartelink (University of Groningen). Bartelink studies questions of identity, tradition and culture, and will discuss these topics, in relation to heritage, with the visiting children during the conference. Additional Children's Conference activities are: a tour over the vaults, a science date about tombstones, and a challenging game on the history of the Der Aa-church, involving a mysterious set of keys.

Results from the Children's Conference will be presented by Anita Warmelink, head of the Pre-University Academy (University of Groningen) after the keynote of Dimphy Schreurs on Friday June 21. Dr. Brenda Bartelink will also refer to the Children's Conference in the parallel session 'Art & Imagination' on the Friday afternoon.

More information about the Children's Conference can be found on: <https://www.rug.nl/society-business/scholierenacademie/basisscholen/op-locatie/kinderconferentie>



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