Extended PhD-proposal for the Posthumus Institute

Tim Riswick

General Information

Name of the applicant
Tim Riswick BA

Address of the applicant
The Netherlands

Title of the research proposal
Between Affection and Hostility: Sameness and Difference in the Mortality Chances of Brothers and Sisters in Taiwan and the Netherlands, 1860-1940.

Name of the envisaged university
Radboud University Nijmegen: Faculty of Arts

Name of the research programme Posthumus
Life-courses, Family and Labour

Name of the supervisors
Prof. dr. Theo Engelen (principal supervisor)
Professor of Historical Demography
Department of History
Faculty of Arts - Radboud University Nijmegen

Dr. Hilde Bras (co-supervisor)
Associate Professor of Social, Economic and Demographic History
Department of History
Faculty of Arts - Radboud University Nijmegen

Dr. Hsieh Ying-hui (co-supervisor)
Institute of Ethnology
Academia Sinica – Taipei City (Taiwan)
Brief Summary of the Research Proposal

Sibling groups are a fascinating research subject because of the ambiguous relationship between brothers and sisters. The proposed study aims to fill in the gap in historical family demographic research by describing and explaining the differences and similarities of siblings’ influence on each other’s mortality chances in Taiwan and the Netherlands in the period between 1860 and 1940. However, this project will not only investigate the differences between these Asian and West-European family systems, but also the regional variation within these societies. A life course approach will be applied and quantitative longitudinal data will be used as main source.

Keywords
SIBLINGS, MORTALITY, FAMILY SYSTEMS, LINKED LIVES, SOCIAL INEQUALITY
Description of the Proposed Research

Research Topic: Siblings and Mortality
During the lives of most people, siblings play an important role. Yet, some scholars argue that before, and during, the demographic transition brothers and sisters may even have had a bigger impact on each other’s lives due to the simple fact that most people in Asian and European societies grew up surrounded by a much larger number of siblings then we do today. Moreover, the number and presence of siblings might be more important in pre-modern times because of bad living conditions, a lack of social security, low levels of well-being and welfare. An extra mouth to feed, or hand to help, could make a huge difference in the most important transitions of life: birth, marriage, migration and death.

However, siblings are not only a fascinating research subject because of their numerousness in past societies. Firstly, the connection between brothers and sisters may be seen as life’s longest relationship. While parents die, friends drift in and out, marriages dissolve and children leave, siblings usually remain connected by an invisible bond that transcends time and distance. Secondly, one of the most intriguing aspects of siblings is their quality of ‘unity in difference’. Brothers and sisters are equals in the sense that they have a common background, shared childhood memories, similar family resources and specific family traditions. Yet, they are also different because hierarchy and inequality among siblings are the result of differences in age, gender and birth position.

Because scholars traditionally have paid most attention to parent-child ties and transmission of property along vertical lines, only a few studies have been devoted to study the role of siblings. However, during the last years the focus is shifting as more scholars are exploring the importance of siblings within the family. Despite these studies, there has been little research investigating the influence of siblings in demographic events and the lives of ordinary people, while research investigating the effects of siblings on marriage and migration finds significant effects of especially gender, birth position, family size and the composition of the sibling set. For example, this research indicates that certain family forms

1 F.J. Sulloway, Born to rebel: birth order, family dynamics, and creative lives (London 1996).
2 The model of the demographic transition consists of four levels of population development. In the first phase, a natural population growth in a regime with a high death and birth ratio took place. After this phase, the population grew more rapidly because of the declining death ratio. In the third phase, the birth ratio declined until there was again a balance between the death and birth ratio in the last phase. In this last phase both ratios were lower than ever before in history. These developments are often connected with modernization, and other social changes. The proposed research will focus on the first two phases, the period before the fertility transition took place.
4 T. Engelen, Van 2 naar 16 miljoen mensen. Demografie van Nederland 1800-nu (Amsterdam 2009).
7 J. Dunn & R. Plomin, Separate lives: Why siblings are so different (New York 1990).
8 Davidoff, Thicker Than Water; Johnson & Sabean (eds.), Sibling Relation.
positively increase the contact frequency of siblings\textsuperscript{10} and that the number of sisters in general increases the age of marriage.\textsuperscript{11}

This line of research points towards the profound influence siblings may have, and it recommends further studies to investigate the, “proximity and the potential support of brothers and sisters for the timing of important transitions in life.”\textsuperscript{12} However, until now remarkably little interest has been devoted to differences and interdependencies among siblings in the final event of life: death. Often referred to as the great equalizer, it is actually the opposite. Death is usually not distributed on a random basis, neither today nor in the past. Moreover, recent studies strongly challenge the idea of fundamental differences between social groups, caused by industrialisation and the consequence of income inequality.\textsuperscript{13} Family structures, and its included members, seem more important than social class in determining mortality through the ways in which it influences cultural, economical, social and biological factors that increase chances on disease and therefore death.\textsuperscript{14} Former research shows for example the importance of the mother for the survival chances of her children,\textsuperscript{15} while the importance of the father is still debated.\textsuperscript{16}

Nonetheless, other family members may also have a positive or negative effect on survival chances.\textsuperscript{17} While the combination of mortality and siblings is sometimes mentioned, they only participate in infant and child mortality research through birth rank and birth intervals.\textsuperscript{18} Up till now, only historical demographers Rebecca Kippen and Sarah Walters investigated whether the presence of similarly aged siblings was characterized by competition or help by analyzing and comparing their probability of dying in families with diverse sibling compositions. They concluded that the presence of similarly aged siblings


\textsuperscript{12} Bras & Neven, ‘The effects of siblings on migration of women’, 66.


\textsuperscript{14} S. Edvinsson and A. Janssens, ‘Clustering of Deaths in Families: Infant and Child Mortality in Historical Perspective’ \textit{Biodemography and Social Biology} 85 (2012) 75-86.


\textsuperscript{16} R. Derosas & M. Oris (eds.), \textit{When Dad Died. Individuals and Families Coping with Distress in Past Societies} (Bern 2002).


increases the probability of dying for children younger than five, even when controlling for preceding birth interval and multiple births.\textsuperscript{19}

\textbf{Theoretical Framework: Mortality within the Family}

There are many resemblances in sibling groups in past Eurasian societies if one looks at family composition.\textsuperscript{20} Yet, they are mainly superficial as they are the result of different processes and mechanisms. Indeed, many studies confirm that there are major differences in household structure as a result of the different historical, cultural and geographical context in which lives are embedded.\textsuperscript{21} For instance, while in West-Europe marriage age was relatively high and an high marriage fertility was the norm, in Asia marriage was early and had a low marriage fertility.\textsuperscript{22} Moreover, there are also differences between the characteristics of West-European and Asian families that influence mortality.\textsuperscript{23} Especially the distinction made by Thomas Malthus between West-Europe as a low pressure, and China as a high pressure mortality regime is still relevant.\textsuperscript{24} Although there might be variation within family systems, scholars nowadays accept that differences within the two societies are minor compared to the differences between the two societies.\textsuperscript{25} The differences and interdependencies among siblings, and their influence on mortality within the family, will therefore be examined within the theoretical framework of so-called household or family systems.\textsuperscript{26}

Earlier research argues that most Asian societies are characterised by large household structures, known as extended families. In these families, scholars argue, the individual is not very different from the role that he or she occupies, because of the collective nature of the family.\textsuperscript{27} Furthermore, parental authority was absolute during the whole life of individuals as a result of virilocal marriage, which means living together with a husband’s father’s family.\textsuperscript{28} Parental background, family composition, gender of the child and his or her


\textsuperscript{20} Around 1900, Dutch women bore on average five to six children. Although Chinese couples had a lower fertility level during their marriage than their European counterparts, Chinese women on average still had 5.5 children. Apart from their numerosity, sibling groups in both societies were to a large extent blended. Because of high mortality rates and frequent remarriage, European households did not only contain full blood-related brothers and sisters, but often also half-siblings and step-siblings. In Chinese society, sibling sets were also mixed, but in addition to half-siblings and step-siblings, adopted siblings were also part of the average household.

\textsuperscript{21} The works of the project \textit{Life at the Extremes. The demography of Europe and China} and the Eurasian \textit{Population and Family History Project} all underscore these differences.

\textsuperscript{22} Bengtsson, Campbell, Lee (eds.), \textit{Life under Pressure}.


\textsuperscript{24} T. Malthus, \textit{An essay on the Principle of Population} (London 1789)

\textsuperscript{25} Engelen, Shepherd, Wen-shan (eds.), \textit{Death at the opposite ends of the Eurasian continent}. 8.


\textsuperscript{28} H. Gates, \textit{China’s motor: a thousand years of petty capitalism} (Cornell 1993); Wolf and Huang, \textit{Marriage and Adoption in China}. 5
position among same-sex and different-sex siblings may therefore have had a decisive influence on what parents decided regarding the life course of a particular child. The lives of brothers and sisters were linked from birth and extended throughout their life course because of three phenomena in Asian families. Firstly, sibling care-taking was an integral part of childhood and adolescence. Secondly, marriage strategies, especially kin marriage, were practiced by parents who saw marriage like a kind of ‘business deal’ and a way to carry on the family line. Thirdly, many Asians lived in extended families based on the co-residence of adult brothers. Brothers not only lived together, they also shared meals and other social activities, or in other words, they pooled resources and offered mutual support. The question, however, is which role did siblings play in each other’s mortality? And how did mortality patterns of siblings differ?

In North-Western European societies, on the other hand, siblings supposedly played a far less significant role in shaping the life course because individualism was propagated, and most households were small and nuclear. Moreover, neolocality was the norm, which meant that children left the parental home when they married. Parental authority was therefore limited to unmarried children, but parents influenced their children’s decisions well into their twenties because the age of marriage was much higher. Life course decisions regarding work, marriage and residence were taken against the backdrop of the stakes and preferences of either their parental or own household. Scholars argued that Western norms, cultural ideals and life course characteristics, for example a period of domestic service stressed the development of individuals into free and autonomous beings. First, the nuclear household was seen as the main research object regarding demographic transitions. Yet, recent research pointed out the importance of kin outside the household and their mutual support and assistance. Secondly, sibling relations were usually characterized by rivalry, not by solidarity. However, recent research also observed cooperation between siblings. Moreover, recent kinship analysis shows how much the ideology of individualism was just that – ideology. In reality the individual was still embedded in the web of family and kinship.

So, what role did siblings play in the West-European family, and does this differ as much with Eurasian families as scholars have assumed?

29 Y. Chen (eds.), Women in Taiwan. Sociocultural Perspectives (Indiapolis 2009); Margery Wolf, Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan (Stanford 1971); W. Yu, Gendered Trajectories. Women, Work, and Social Change in Japan and Taiwan (Stanford 2009).
30 The works of the project Life at the Extremes. The demography of Europe and China and the Eurasian Population and Family History Project all underscore these differences.
31 Wall, Robin, Laslett (eds.), Family Forms in Historic Europe.
37 Bras & Van Tilburg, ‘Kinship and Social Networks’.
38 Johnson & Sabean (eds.), Sibling Relation, 22.
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Key Objectives
To deal with the questions posed above, the proposed research will conduct a comparative analysis of mortality chances of siblings in Taiwan and the Netherlands by addressing the following question: "Why, and under which circumstances, did siblings affect childhood and youth mortality during the period 1860-1940? And how did their roles differ or overlap at both ends of the Eurasian continent?" In addition, this project will not only compare the roles of siblings in extended and nuclear/stem household family systems, but also the variations of the household systems that exist within Taiwan and the Netherlands itself. By doing so, it will be possible to investigate to what degree region, cultural practices, family actors and family systems were essential for the timing of the arrival of the Grim Reaper. Taiwan and the Netherlands are chosen because they can be used as representative case studies for the general situation described in West-Europe and Asia. Moreover, reliable household and population registers are, partly digitally, available, which is exceptional for societies undergoing demographic transition and industrialisation. Figure 1 summarizes the threefold structure of the proposed research.

Figure 1: Structure of the Proposed Research on Siblings and Mortality in Eurasia

This is underscored by all the contributions in the project: Life at the Extremes. The demography of Europe and China.
**Approach: Sources and Methodology**

The research strategy is aimed at unravelling variation in mortality chances of siblings in West-European and Asian family systems, in which a diverse range of economic, social and cultural determinants are active. By applying a life course approach, the proposed research dynamically studies the lives and relations of brothers and sisters, focusing on subsequent transitions, positions and trajectories in their lives.

For Taiwan, the pao-chia household registry system will be used, which was revived during the Japanese occupation, 1895-1946. A digital dataset of thirteen localities in the north of Taiwan was made available by Arthur P. Wolf, Professor of Anthropological Sciences at Stanford University, and the Institute of Ethnology (Academia Sinica) in Taiwan houses several more household registers of the south. For the Netherlands, longitudinal life course data from the Dutch population registers are used, which basically contain the same information as the Taiwanese household registers. These data are collected by the Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN), located at the International Institute for Social History, which incorporates more than 40,000 life courses of individuals born in the period 1863-1922 in the Netherlands. Moreover, the NWO Medium Investment project *Linking Historical Lives*, led by Hilde Bras, is creating a database of 3000 pairs of siblings from three different regions in the Netherlands. This database will be ready in September 2013 and makes the proposed research possible for the Netherlands. The proposed project will use these data sets containing the life courses of sibling sets covering different regional household systems in both Taiwan and the Netherlands.

To analyse all datasets, methods appropriate for the statistical analysis of quantitative life course data will be used. Event history techniques can analyze mortality in the life courses of Taiwanese and Dutch siblings, while multilevel (event history) models are applied to compensate for clustered sibling data. This will be done by measuring characteristics of siblings and their households and estimating how they influenced individual life course outcomes. In addition, the proposed research will search for qualitative sources, such as oral history, letters, ethnographic works and governmental reports, to complement the mentioned quantitative sources. By doing so, the proposed research hopes to preserve the complexity of individual cases that may shed light on statistical outcomes.

**Innovation and Originality**

In recent years much research has been dedicated to study demographic behaviour within the framework of the differential nature and strength of family ties across family systems. The last decade scholars have also been devoting more time to study lateral ties between siblings and concluded that these ties are of importance for influencing demographic outcomes and determining social inequality. This project will be innovative because it will analyze mortality, thereby complementing current research from the perspective of the

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influence and diversity of siblings’ life courses. Moreover, while some studies have compared European and Asian families, they have never simultaneously included the regional diversity within European and Asian societies itself. Therefore, the strength of this project not only lies in analyzing both the differences and similarities between extended and nuclear/stem family systems in Taiwan and the Netherlands, but also in drawing attention to the variation of regional family systems. By doing so, a more comprehensive approach, in which political, economic, demographic, ecological and cultural factors are taken into account, addresses the basic question of what determines demographic behaviour in any time or place, and if it causes social inequality in the sense of mortality patterns.

Further innovations can be found in the sources and methods that will be used, as described earlier, but also in the theoretical debate about the nature and variation of human behaviour. While dealing with siblings, it may be favourable for our understanding of family relations to include explanations on how, according to evolutionary biology, siblings are rivals or helpers in various situations. This study will incorporate theoretical ideas of biology, anthropology, psychology and sociology, because they may enhance our knowledge on rivalry and cooperation between siblings. In this way, a truly interdisciplinary perspective may give a new understanding about how mortality takes shape across family systems and historical contexts, but may also be beneficial for the comparative study of siblings in general.

**Institutional Embedding**

The theme of my proposed research is situated in the very centre of the Posthumus research programme *Life-courses, Family and Labour*. In this programme the developments in population and family are important. However, essential is the idea to study demographic behaviour by using an international comparative approach.

The proposed research executes these goals regarding siblings and mortality. Siblings are at the very heart of the family, and are a crucial part of the lives of most people. To examine family systems and mortality patterns in both Taiwan and the Netherlands from the lateral perspective of siblings will therefore be a clear addition to the investigation of the human life course from an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. Moreover, by also analyzing the regional diversity within the West-European and Asian family system, the project will also focus on processes revolving around local differences between social classes, ethnic groups and religious denominations.

What is more, it will be beneficial for the research program because it continues on earlier investigations. For example, it complements the ongoing research on siblings and fertility of the VIDI-program of Hilde Bras, *The Power of the Family*, with their influence on

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43 For more information about this project see: [www.ru.nl/hkcs/programma's/public-and-private/the-socio-cultural/related-projects/the-power-the-family/project-description/](7-03-2013).
mortality, and adds to the insights of the current PhD-project of Maaike Messelink, *Too young to die: Excess female mortality at young ages in the Netherlands, 1850-1930* as it will follow up and expand on its conclusion that siblings are important in explaining excess female mortality. Furthermore, the focus on mortality is aligned with Posthumus’ future interests as Angélique Janssens is preparing a proposal for a NWO project on mortality with the working title *Genes, Germs and Resources*.

Lastly, as part of this research proposal, I will work as a visiting scholar at Academia Sinica for six to eight months. Therefore, this research proposal may add to, but may also encourage further cooperation within the international *Population and Society in Taiwan and the Netherlands* project.

**Number of words: 2,498**

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44 These conclusions were made in a paper presented at the Posthumus Conference on Friday 25 Mai 2012 by Maaike Messelink. For more information regarding her PhD-project see: [www.ru.nl/geschiedenis/onderzoek/economische-sociale/too-young-to-sex](http://www.ru.nl/geschiedenis/onderzoek/economische-sociale/too-young-to-sex) (7-03-2013).

45 Academia Sinica, located in Taipei City (Taiwan), is the most preeminent academic institution in the Republic of China. It was founded in 1928 to promote and undertake scholarly research in sciences and humanities. For more information see: [http://www.sinica.edu.tw/index.shtml](http://www.sinica.edu.tw/index.shtml) (7-03-2013).

46 This is a collaboration headed by professors Chuang Yin-chang (Academia Sinica), Arthur Wolf (Stanford University), Theo Engelen (Radboud University Nijmegen) and Jan Kok (Radboud University Nijmegen / International Institute for Social History).
Detailed Work Programme
This planning is based on 39 working months during the PhD period of four years. Sometimes activities overlap, but most of them are in chronological order. The main objectives are: analyzing available literature, searching for qualitative sources, learning more advanced statistical methods, learning Mandarin Chinese, attending the Posthumus Graduate Programmes, structuring and analyzing the data sets of the population registers of the Netherlands and Taiwan and writing all my findings down in three articles, which conclusions will be part of my final dissertation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 months</strong></td>
<td>Studying literature on siblings, household structures, family systems, mortality patterns, and the historical contexts of both the Netherlands and Taiwan before and during the demographic transition. Learning Chinese (Mandarin) A1. Learning basics of programming and structuring in databases at TVI Software, under the supervision of Stefan Minten.</td>
<td>Paper (10,000 words) on the historiography of mortality and family systems to be included into the dissertation. Hypotheses about the effect of siblings between and within family systems regarding mortality. Language certificate Chinese (Mandarin) A1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 months</strong></td>
<td>PhD training at the Posthumus Graduate Programme: Basic Training.</td>
<td>Study plans and Papers according to Posthumus requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 month</strong></td>
<td>Advanced Statistical Training at the Faculty of Sociology at the Radboud University Nijmegen.</td>
<td>Examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 month</strong></td>
<td>Summer course advanced statistical training at the University of Michigan</td>
<td>Examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 months</strong></td>
<td>Searching and analyzing additional qualitative sources to complement the quantitative sources in the Netherlands.</td>
<td>Small paper (5000 words each) on what sources may be used to complement the quantitative information regarding the mortality figures in the population registers of the Netherlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 months</strong></td>
<td>Configuration of, and analyzing, the data of the Netherlands from the HSN and Linking Historical Lives databases. Learning Chinese (Mandarin) A2.</td>
<td>Description of the used sources. Data files ready for analysis First statistical results of event history analysis for the three regions in the Netherlands.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.5 month</strong></td>
<td>Writing first article about the effect of siblings on mortality within the Netherlands.</td>
<td>Language certificate Chinese (Mandarin) A2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 month</strong></td>
<td>PhD training at the Posthumus Graduate Programme: Advanced Training.</td>
<td>First conference paper or/and international journal article: Mortality and Siblings within the Netherlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 months</strong></td>
<td>Visiting scholar in Taiwan, at the Program of Historical Demography (Academia Sinica). Searching and analyzing additional qualitative sources to complement the quantitative sources in Taiwan.</td>
<td>Presentations and Papers, according to Posthumus requirements. Small paper (5000 words each) on what sources may be used to complement the quantitative information regarding the mortality figures in the household registers of Taiwan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6 months</strong></td>
<td>Visiting scholar in Taiwan, at the Program of Historical Demography (Academia Sinica). Configuration of, and analysing, the data of the Taiwanese household registers. Learning Chinese (Mandarin) B1/B2.</td>
<td>Description of the used sources. Data files ready for analysis First statistical results of event history analysis for the two regions in Taiwan. Language certificate Chinese (Mandarin) B1/B2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.5 month</strong></td>
<td>Writing first article about the effect of siblings on mortality within Taiwan.</td>
<td>Second conference paper and/or international journal article: Mortality and Siblings within Taiwan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 months</strong></td>
<td>Writing the Dissertation - Rewriting the sections about siblings in the diverse family systems within Taiwan and the Netherlands. - Comparison between the extended family system of Taiwan and the stem/nuclear family system of the Netherlands.</td>
<td>Dissertation Third conference paper and/or international journal article: Sameness and Difference in the Mortality Chances of brothers and sisters in Taiwan and the Netherlands, 1860-1940.</td>
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Additional research budget

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Course Chinese (Mandarin) at Radboud In’to Languages</td>
<td>€ 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Summer Course Statistics at University of Michigan</td>
<td>€ 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Travel costs from the Netherlands to Taiwan and vice versa.</td>
<td>€ 1000</td>
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<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>Conferences Social Science History (American/European)</td>
<td>€ 2000</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>€ 4800</strong></td>
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Brief bibliography


CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal details

Name: Tim
Initials: 
Surname: Riswick
Address: 

Date of birth: 
Place of birth: 
Nationality: 
Phone number: 
E-mail: 

Education

08-2012 – present  Reflections on Science: European Culture, Honours Academy Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary. This program exists of joining a think-tank and the lectures ‘Ethos of Science’. Personal focus within the think-tank: Empire Europe, historical perspective on borders, characteristics of EU members, and refused members of the European Union. (supervisors: dr. Maarten De Pourcq and prof. dr. Ferenc Hörcher).


--- 06/2013 – 06/2013  EHP-S-Net International Summer School in Historical Demography at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. I was selected to attend this ten day during summer school which covers all subjects of historical demography in several workshops, given by world’s leading experts.


--- **01/2011 – 05/2011** International Minor at the University of Glasgow (Erasmus). Courses: ‘Scottish History’, ‘Economic and Social History’ and ‘Classics’.

**High School** (VWO E&M ‘Atheneum’ level), Dendron College in Horst, The Netherlands. Subjects: Dutch, English, Mathematics, History, Economics, Management & Organization, Geography, Informatics. The title of my profile project was: ‘The various lives in Horst aan de Maas during World War II’. In addition we had an exchange with a High School in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2007.

**Recent employment**

**01/2012 – present** Tutor of the High School courses English, History, Economics, group tutor for helping pupils with their homework, improving their study skills and giving them extra assistance when needed, and exam trainer of Economics at Bijles Maas en Waal.


**12/2009 – present** Volunteer Guide and Documentation at Museum the Kantfabriek. As Guide active giving tours through the museum in Dutch and English. Involvement with the general Documentation of the museum and researcher on the ‘Oral History Project of the Catholic School in Meterik’.

**06/2008 – present** Several functions, such as ride operator and supervision of the survival trail, at theme park Toverland in Sevenum.

**Important activities and associations**

**09/2011 – 08/2012** Secretary of the Student Council of the Faculty of Arts. I represented the interests of the 2,800 students of the Radboud University through consultation with the several Departmental Student Councils, the Employee’s Council and the Faculty Board. Moreover I maintained close relations with the University Student Council and the Faculties of Humanities of other universities.
09/2011 – 08/2012 **Student Chairman of the History Department Council.** I represented all students of the Department of History together with four other students. We mainly discussed the quality of education together with the staff. Together with Jeroen Arts a rapport with suggestions for the Bachelor years 1 and 2 was written and partly implemented by the Department.

11/2010 – 08/2012 **IRUN Ambassador and Mentor International Students.** During my time in Glasgow I was officially appointed as an Ambassador of the International Research Universities Network (IRUN) to provide information to students that wanted to study abroad. After my stay in Glasgow I became a mentor to several international students studying at the Radboud University Nijmegen.

08/2010 - present **Member of the Commission Education of the GSV (History Student Organization).** Mainly involved with evaluation of courses with freshmen and reporting these results to the coordinators of the discussed courses.

06/2010 – 08/2012 **Volunteer Red Cross Nijmegen.** On 07-06-2010 I passed my First-Aid exam and joined several events as a care worker, including the Nijmeegse Vierdaagse.

01/2010 – 12/2010 **Treasurer of the Introduction Commission of History.** After being a mentor the year before, I joined the Introduction Commission and organized several activities and managed everything financially for the ten days during freshmen introduction of the History Department.

08/2009 – 07/2011 **Author for the Historisch Institutioneel Tijdschrift (HInT).** I wrote several articles for the magazine of the History Student Organization.

09/2004 – 06/2008 **Member of the Dendron High School Pupil Council.** I was part of a group of 15 pupils that represented the 2000 other pupils and discussed issues with the Head of the school. Moreover, I was Chairman of several commissions, such as Charity (2007), ICT (2007-2008) and the High School Prom (2008).

**Recent Publications**

**Scientific**


**Semi-scientific**


**Non scientific**


**Conferences**

19-04-2013 **Annual N.W. Posthumus Conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.** As part of the research master course ‘Keys to the Treasure Trove’ of the Posthumus Institute, I was appointed as student commentator for the paper of Magaly Rodriguez, titled ‘Collecting information on prostitutes’ backgrounds in Geneva, 1920s-1930s’.

14-12-2012 **Fifth Day of Historical Demography in Leuven, Belgium.** I presented my first results about the Taiwanese household registers and the effect of gender and siblings on child mortality in the region Hai-shan. This presentation is at the moment being rewritten to an article for the WOG Jaarboek 2013.

**Language Skills**

**Dutch:** native speaker.

**English:** proficient.

**German:** intermediate.

**French:** intermediate.

**Mandarin Chinese:** beginner.

**Hobby’s**

**Hockey:** I am playing this sport for nearly fourteen years at the Hockey Club Horst.

**Hiking / Mountain biking:** I love being outdoors, walking or biking with some friends.

**Traveling:** I enjoy traveling, discovering the world and finding out were the road takes me.