

Research Programme

Centre for Dutch Reformation Studies (CDRS) 2018-2023

Part 1: Introduction and general information

Introduction

The *Centre for Dutch Reformation Studies (CDRS)* is Dutch in its primary focus on the Low Countries and in its location. The Early Modern period of the reformations is at the core of the research, because this period is the birth ground of the Protestant churches in the West. The confessional and religious diversity, born from the 16th Century, is still an important factor in understanding the present day plurality of churches and their respective relations to government and society in Europe.

The *CDRS* fosters the ideal of interaction with history as studied at the universities and with church historical research in similar institutions in the Netherlands, in Europe and internationally. It wants to present sound (church)historical scholarship and train a new generation of students in this discipline. The focus on the reformations and their impact offers a magnificent background for the study of sources – texts and material culture –, ecclesial, confessional and religious traditions and schools of scholarship.

Its place within the Theological University Kampen stimulates the *CDRS* to connect today's questions to the various traditions of the reformations and interpret what changed (or was lost) along the way.

One of the aims of the *CDRS* is to connect scholars, holding a PhD, but working outside the academic environment, to the research programme. There are a number of independent scholars who are willing to contribute to the *CDRS*. This cooperation makes it possible to draft a more ambitious research programme.

Programme title

Religious Life and Ecclesial Practice: Europe and the Netherlands (16-18th Century)

Summary

Focus on the reformation in the Low Countries means that the *CDRS* looks at the reformations as an underground movement (1520-1550), as grass root ecclesiology of fugitives abroad (1550-1570), as generating features of the public Church (1570-1620) and as developing within the emerging tolerance of religious diversity (16-18th century). Research on the Protestant reformations needs to be based on a thorough knowledge of the theology of Martin Luther, the first reformer of the 16th Century, and on the development of Lutheran traditions. Scholarship of both, Luther and Calvin, and of the traditions they ignited, strengthens the profile and mission of the Theological University Kampen. The first phase of the reformation was deeply influenced by Martin Luther, and Lutheranism gained its own place as a religious minority tradition within in the Dutch religious landscape. The *Kooiman-Boendermaker Chair for Luther Research and the history of (Dutch) Lutheranism*, held by Prof. Dr. Sabine Hiebsch, has been established to study these influences. The European context is central in the research of the *CDRS*, because the development of Lutheran and Reformed traditions in the Low Countries didn't happen in isolation, but was highly influenced by developments in other parts of Europe and vice versa.

Historiography of the reformation in the Low Countries has mostly focused on the reformation in the cities and on the position of the Reformed Churches as the public church. The minorities have been less prominent. Leading question of the research programme therefore is: How did religious life and ecclesial practises develop in the mixed situation of a public church and confessional minorities?

Given the present day's interest in spirituality, fresh research is expected to provide angles not only for the academic public, but for a broader audience as well. The *CDRS* strives to develop activities for valorization in order to increase the accessibility of the research. Founded in the tradition of the (typically neo-Calvinist) Reformed Churches, the *CDRS* recognizes how this ecclesial, confessional and liturgical tradition is formed, both in the past and in the present, in the context of the described diversity.

Researchers

Senior researchers:

Prof. Dr. Erik A. de Boer (Programme leader)

Prof. Dr. Sabine Hiebsch (*Kooiman-Boendermaker Chair for Luther Research and the History of (Dutch) Lutheranism*)

Dr. William A. den Boer

Dr. Kees de Groot

Dr. Herman A. Speelman (until June 2020)

Dr. Daniël Timmerman

Associate researchers:

Dr. Jan Klok

Dr. Pieter Rouwendal

Visiting Professor:

Prof. Dr. Dolf Britz (em. Professor of Free State University Bloemfontein, South-Africa)

Visiting fellows:

Dr. André Bas

Dr. Theo Basoski

Dr. Hyun-Ah Kim

Em. Prof. Dr. Frank van der Pol

Part 2: Description of the research programme

Erik de Boer

The research focuses on the public church in the early history of the Dutch republic. What was the late 16th century vision of the public Church and how was this realized until the early 17th century? The historiographic concept of the public church will be revisited and weighed against the idea of tolerance. Confession and Catechism, Church order and liturgy, formular prayers and 'Siecken-Troost' will be studied as expressions of the 'soul' of the Reformed church in their development and various editions, in dissemination and availability.

Also a critical edition of John Calvin's early works is in course of preparation: *Institutio* 1536; Minor Strasbourg works; Anti-nicodemite writings and translations. These open

up a line of research to describe Calvin's writings of the 1540s against Nicodemism in their influence on the course of the Dutch Reformed reformation.

Products:

Critical edition of John Calvin, *Christianae religionis institutio* 1536, in series *Calvini opera denuo recognita* (Genève: Librairie Droz). 2022

Critical edition of John Calvin, Minor Strasbourg works, in *Critical edition of John Calvin*. 2021

Critical edition of John Calvin, Anti-nicodemite work, in series *Calvini opera denuo recognita* (Genève: Librairie Droz). 2023

Monograph (built by articles): *Reformed Religion. What was the Soul of the Public Church in the Netherlands (1570-1620)?*

PhD research:

In a joint project with the Protestantse Theologische Universiteit, Amsterdam (PThU), 'The Dynamics of the Classical Reformed Liturgy in the Netherlands: Its Texts and their History', in cooperation with Dr. K.-W. de Jong en Prof. Dr. W.H.Th. Moehn and two promovendi at the PThU:

- Moses Lim:

'The Liturgical Forms for the Installation of Church Officers: Their Origins, Development and Acceptance' (start 2018; promotion: 2022)

Key research question: How did the liturgical forms for the installation of church officers, that is for ministers of the word and elders and deacons, develop and were accepted in the Reformed churches in the Netherlands in the 16th and early 17th century?

- Anne Lorein:

'Petrus Dathenus' Form for the Solemnisation of Marriage in the Context of the Low Countries 1555-1672: Views on the Reformed Marriage' (start 2019; part since 2020; promotion 2026)

Key research question: What sets the views on marriage in Dathenus's Form for the Solemnisation of Marriage apart from those of other reformed authors in the context of the Low Countries (1555-1672)?"

Other PhD research:

- Theo Basoski: (supervisor Prof. Dr. Frank van der Pol, em. TUK; Dr. Jan W. Koopmans, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

'Voor de Heer en voor Oranje. Simon Oomius en zijn orangistische bazuinen (1672-1674). Expected defense, September 18, 2020.

- Aaron Jeon: (co-supervisor: Dr. J. an de Kamp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

'A Study on the *Practical Ecclesiology* of Jean Taffin (1529-1602): His Vision for the Reformed Church in the Low Countries' (start 2018; promotion 2022)

Key research question:

What did Jean Taffin envision for the public Church in the Low-Countries in the formative period of the Reformed Churches (up to the Arminian controversy)?

- Byunghoon Kang: (co-supervisor: Prof. Dr. W.H.Th. Moehn, PThU Amsterdam)

'Guy de Brès' Theology on the Lord's Supper: in the Context of the Religious-Confessional Landscape in the Low Countries' (start 2019; promotion 2023)

Key research question: What was Guy de Brès' theology on the Lord's Supper in his varied writings in the context of the communication with Reformed colleagues, the confrontations with Roman-catholic side, and the discord with Lutheran theologians?

- BonSeung Koo:

'Pietas and theologia practica'

Key research question: How is Simon Oomius (1630–1706) connected with Augustine especially in the series of Oomius' masterpiece *Institutiones theologiae practicae* (1672, 1676, 1680). I am going to narrow this question to the context of defectiveness and deprivation. Therefore, the introductory question of my research will be: How are Augustine and Oomius approached from defectiveness and deprivation, that is, nihil?

- Harry Wendt: (co-supervisor: prof. dr. Ch. Kooi, Louisiana State University)

'Minor Prophet. Maarten Micron's (1523-1559) Ecclesiology' (start 2017 parttime; promotion 2023)

Key research question: The research looks at the ecclesiology put forward by Maarten Micron, pastor of the Dutch Church in London, in his book *Van de weerdicheydt, nutheydt ende noodicheyt der christelicker vergaderinghen*. By placing this within the context of the reformation of the refugees it sheds further light on the development of the Dutch Churches and the paradigm of the reformation of the refugees itself.

Sabine Hiebsch

The research activities are in alignment with the four main objectives of the *Kooiman-Boendermaker Chair for Luther Research and the History of (Dutch) Lutheranism*:

- a. The theology of Martin Luther and the traditions that were instrumental for its formation process.
- b. The reception of Luther's theology and its development, specifically in the Netherlands.
- c. The history of Dutch Lutheranism and the religious live and practices of the Lutheran congregations, also in connection and comparison to global Lutheranism.
- d. The relationship between Dutch Lutheranism and other religious and confessional groups in the Netherlands, in particular Reformed Protestantism.

The research focuses on a variety of source material: texts and religious material culture. Research of the historical context of these sources is combined with the assessment of their relevance and meaning in past, present and future.

Goals

The research wants to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the formation process and development of Dutch Lutheranism and the organization of the Lutheran congregations and their religious life and practices. This will make Luther's theology and Dutch Lutheranism more visible within the topography of the Dutch religious and cultural landscape as well as within the broader context of global Lutheranism.

Furthermore, the research will expand the knowledge on how toleration and confessional and religious co-existence functioned in the Dutch Republic. Research on the relation of Dutch Lutheranism with other faith groups, in particular Reformed Protestantism, will not only shed light on the role of Lutheranism in the development of the Reformed Church but can provide a new perspective on that development.

Examples of specific research topics

Dutch Lutheran confessional and religious identity

My research will provide a critical evaluation of the concepts of *confessionalization* (W. Reinhard, H. Schilling) and *confessional cultures* (Th. Kaufmann) within a Lutheran minority context and conceptualize a new framework to describe and interpret Dutch Lutheranism. The groundwork has been laid in my inaugural lecture *Luther en Nederland: verleden – heden – toekomst* (2018).

This research is based on the specific context of Dutch Lutheranism. On the one hand Dutch Lutheranism had a confessional and religious minority status opposite the public Reformed Church and amid other religious minorities. On the other hand it could only develop thanks to the migrant streams of the 16th and 17th centuries, mainly from the Scandinavian countries and the German Lands of the Empire, where Lutheranism had become a dominant confession. This makes Dutch Lutheranism very interesting for comparisons with Lutheran majority contexts.

This research will result in several articles (2018, 2019, 2022, 2023) and my editorship of a co-edited volume (2021/2022).

presentia realis

One of the main points of conflict between the Lutherans and the Reformed revolves around the different interpretations of *presentia realis*. In the period until the Fall of Antwerp (1585) as well as in the start-up period in the (nascent) Dutch Republic this led to a series of theological disputes about the understanding of the Lord's Supper and the meaning of Ascension Day. Sources for research are theological treatises, sermons, church order articles, liturgical forms, and material culture e.g. communion tokens, vasa sacra and the design of the church interiors.

This research is partly connected to the network 'EPCOT' – Eucharistic, political and cultural organizational transformations before, under and after the Reformation, LUMEN Centre, University of Aarhus, in which I am a participant. My research will be presented in a guest lecture at the University of Aarhus and a master class for their PhD students (2018) and published in an article (2022).

Dutch Lutheran inauguration sermons

Until 1700 41 Dutch Lutheran congregations had been founded. Their German or Scandinavian co-religionists had taken over the Catholic churches. In the Dutch Republic this privileged position was reserved for the public Reformed Church. With high regional disparities the Dutch Lutheran congregations gradually expanded their religious space and most congregations were able to build churches. They marked these special occasions with inauguration sermons.

The task is to collect the Lutheran inauguration sermons of the 17th century and interpret them in their historical context and in comparison to likewise sermons from another Lutheran minority context and to Lutheran majority contexts such as the German Lands and Scandinavia.

Intermediate results of this research have already been presented at several international conferences (7th RefoRC Conference Berlin 2017, Reformation conference in Cambridge organized by Alexandra Walsham 2017, Sixteenth Century Society & Conference Milwaukee 2017) and an article (2019) and a book (2023) on this topic are planned.

Martin Luther as lieu de mémoire in Dutch Lutheranism

An intriguing characteristic feature of Dutch Lutheranism is its patchwork identity due to the international influences, not only in its formation period but throughout its history until the present day. The same is true for the Dutch Lutheran image of Martin Luther. The research will show how Luther functioned as *lieu de mémoire* within the specific Dutch Lutheran minority context. I will to that end examine a variety of sources: written sources e.g. sermons and polemic pamphlets and sources from the realm of (religious) material culture e.g. church buildings, paintings, illustrations, vasa sacra and communion tokens.

The result of my research will be published in articles (2019, 2022).

'Miscellaneous' topics in Luther research

I always like to find the niches in Luther research, the topics that have not already been discussed over and over again. I have planned articles on a few of these topics (2022, 2023).

PhD research:

- Maarten Diepenbroek:

'The liturgical theology of Martin Luther and the movement of liturgical renewal in modern Dutch Lutheranism'

Key research question:

How are the liturgical concepts of Martin Luther and the movement of liturgical renewal that took place in twentieth century Dutch Lutheranism related, placed in the perspective of Luther's own liturgical development? (start June 2020 parttime; promotion 2025)

William den Boer

Editing the critical edition of *Synopsis purioris theologiae*. Synopsis of a Purer Theology. Latin Text and English Translation (1625) vol. 3, with Andreas J. Beck & Riemer A. Faber) (Brill: Leiden 2020).

Kees de Groot

My research focuses on preaching in the Low Countries in the sixteenth century in the Reformed Churches. Who was allowed to preach? (office) Where did ministers receive their training? (education) How did people preach? (homiletics) What were the sermons about? (content) Who listened to the sermons? (audience) What was the impact of the sermons? (influence).

Herman Speelman en Daniël Timmerman

A study about the Reformed alternatives for the liturgy of the hours concerns a project of the Protestant vision for and transformation of the *horae canonicae*, in particular seen from sources of the early Reformed tradition in Zurich and Geneva. The aim is to explore insight in a part of the history of Reformed spirituality, which has received little scholarly attention thus far. The first output is planned in 2020 with a Dutch language book about some source texts from the thirties and forties of the sixteenth century of Bullinger and Viret with extensive introductions, and a peer reviewed article on this topic in 2022. Daniël Timmerman will edit Bullinger's *Catechesis pro adultioribus*, to be published in Heinrich Bullinger Werke (2020) and an article on Zwingli and the Zürich catechetical tradition in *Zürcher Beiträge zur Reformationsgeschichte* (2020).

Jan Klok

John Calvin as preacher: Research project on Calvin's sermons on the Psalms, Galatians and Ephesians

Introduction

An essential part of John Calvin's work in Geneva was his activity as a preacher. Much of his sermons have been written down by scribes and published as early as the 16th century. The study of the content of these sermons contributes significantly to a better understanding of Calvin and his theology. Particularly because sermons are an explicit example of Calvin's aim and efforts to shape the religious life and the ecclesiastical practices in 16th century Geneva. Some of these sermons have been translated into Latin, which radiated their influence over large parts of Europe. Four aspects are to be considered: the exegetical, historical, theological and linguistical context. An essential contribution to this research of the sermons is the (re)edition of his sermons.

The project

This project aims to publish Calvin's sermons on the Psalms (28 sermons) and Paul's letters to the Galatians (43 sermons) and Ephesians (48 sermons) in a new critical edition, which will be published in the *Ioannis Calvini Opera Omnia Denuo Recognita* (COR) series. In order to provide the reader tools for the interpretation of the texts, the introduction and the annotations provide information from four angles, parallel to the above four aspects:

- *Exegetical aspect:* Calvin's exegesis in the sermons stands in the context of both his own commentary work and contemporary and medieval interpretation of the scriptures. A cartography of the history of exegesis is important for understanding what is unique about Calvin's exegesis.
- *Historical aspect:* sermons are usually determined by the current situation in which they are delivered, for Calvin this is especially the situation in Geneva: Calvin was first and foremost a city preacher. At the same time, he stands in the broader context of the European Reformation movement, which deserves attention.
- *Theological aspect:* In a sense, one can consider sermons as 'applied theology' that has its own emphasis and distinguishes itself from more systematic works. Calvin is a theologian and preacher of the refugees, the attention to the theological accents in Calvin's sermon work can contribute to a more differentiated picture of his theology.
- *Philological aspect:* here attention is paid to Calvin's use of language and style. In many cases, the 'moyen français' deserves an explanation, especially with regard to the word meaning. Stylistically, the sermons differ from other works of Calvin by the 'amplificatio', which serves the edification, where otherwise Calvin prefers 'perspicua brevitatis'.

Method

The method is a combination of the classic craftsmanship of making editions and the use of modern digital techniques (Digital Humanities). By using those techniques, it becomes possible to apply new ways of text analysis by means of for example creating databases or tagging of the text.

Output

The project aims at the publication of three volumes in the COR, Series V, vol. 5 (2022), 10 and 11 (preliminary planning resp. 2024 and 2026).

In addition, the above aspects will be further elaborated and explained in some journal articles:

- Calvin and the Theology of the Refugees (2021)
- Claude Baduel as translator of Calvin's *Quatre Sermons* (2021/2022)
- Calvin's exegesis of the Psalms in late medieval perspective – a case study (2022)

Practical

Available time: around 0,5 fte (flexible).

Pieter Rouwendal

Predestination in Reformed Theology and Practice: Dutch Theology in Context (16-18th century).

Although recent research has convincingly shown that it is historically and theologically incorrect to view the doctrine of predestination as a “central dogma” of Reformed theology, the question remains what the actual influence of this doctrine has been upon the Reformed practise. As part of the research project "Religious Life and Ecclesial Practice" I am researching the doctrine of predestination. I investigate the doctrine in its development, its relation to other doctrines and the way it affected the practise of preaching as well the spiritual life of the Reformed. For instance, I investigate the relation between the doctrine of predestination and the preaching of the marks of God's children as practised in Dutch Reformed Pietism. The common idea is that the latter is a consequence of the former, but this has never been subjected to research.

Output:

- The origins of the idea of predestination as *Cor Ecclesiae* (article, 2018)
- Developments in and divergent opinions on the extent of the atonement related to election (several paper presentations at congresses, and articles in books, 2018-2021)
- Disagreement and Diversity on Predestination (several articles in journals and books, 2020-2023)
- Predestination in the theology of influential theologians (several articles in journals and books, 2021-2023)
- Predestination and Pietism (articles in journals and books, and a lemma in the *Encyclopedie van de Nadere Reformatie*, 2019-2023)

Dolf Britz

Prof. Britz's research program is not limited to research Theology, Religious Culture and Ecclesial Practise in the Low Countries, but also incorporates the worldwide footprint of Dutch overseas activities since 1600, in particular the protuberant religious aspect that characterized this global enterprise, bringing into the program themes related to colonialism, migration and religion. It, therefore, includes the theological-critical study of the religious impact and reception in shaping colonial settings in Africa, Brazil, China, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka and the United States. Prof. Britz established himself as a scholar of early South African church history and therefore the relation between the Netherlands, the Cape of Good Hope And Batavia. His approach is deeply committed to a theological-critical study of primary sources. This method consents to reliable decolonization of existing scholarship and church historiography

characterized by its categorized assumptions and provides the needed scope and range of trustworthy historical and theological knowledge, research and publications.

The purpose of his visit to Kampen in the fall of 2020 comprises four aspects: archival research, a study of 17th-century publications, engaging the status of current scholarship and participation in the programme of the Centre for Dutch Reformation Studies.

1. *Archival research*

Prof. Britz' visit to the Netherlands comprises the execution of thoroughly planned archival research of primary sources, kept in Dutch archival repositories. In particular, his research will focus on 17th-century documents (between 1640 and 1680) kept in the facilities of the Dutch East-India Company and the Dutch Reformed Church. Of particular importance is the (ecclesial) relation between the Cape of Good Hope and Batavia. Baptismal records and registers of membership of (17th century) reformed churches will be included, to profile the church at the Cape of Good Hope. The result will inform a comprehensive publication of the "beginning" at the Cape of Good Hope, covering the years 1649-1681.

2. *17th Century publications*

A second interest of the research plan focusses on relevant 17th-century publications, that played a role in shaping the Cape ecclesial life and church. Books and pamphlets e.g. on official prayers, on comets, on the Khoina (indigenous peoples), on the justification of the establishment of a maritime support base at the Cape of Good Hope. The study and research in the Netherlands offer the opportunity to conclude a source-based research project on the history of the early church and theology in Southern Africa. The result will be published in a book.

André Bas

In the course of years Herman van Lethmate (1492-1555) gained a lot of experience with the persecution of heretics in the Netherlands. He also contributed a lot to the reflection on it. But how are practice and reflection related? What vision did he develop on heresy and the fight against it in his *De Instauranda Religione* (1544)? How is this vision related to the policies Charles V implemented in the Netherlands? Did he put his vision into practice? And if not, are the policies Charles V implemented guilty of it? This research will result in an article about Herman Lethmate and his *De Instauranda Religione* (1544) (2019) and a book about Herman Lethmate as an inquisitor (2023).

Theo Basoski

Special days of prayer in the Year of disaster (1672) in the city of Groningen

Introduction

This research concentrates on the religious practice of *Special Prayer days*, which were held in the Dutch Republic on the occasion of disasters and delivery from it. There were differences in government between the provinces and cities in the Republic and the place of religious minorities. This project will focus on the city of Groningen in 1672, the *Year of disaster*.

Research questions

The research will concentrate on:

- the organization of these specials days of prayer. Which role did the States General, the States of the province of Groningen and the authorities of the public church play?
- which religious groups participated? Were religious minorities involved? This project will focus on the Reformed Church and the Lutheran congregation in Groningen. And

if there was participation of the Lutherans, were there differences between the Reformed and the Lutherans?

Method

-Archival research regarding the city and the States of Groningen, the Reformed Church of Groningen and the Lutheran congregation in Groningen.

-research of the genesis of the publication *Twee christelijcke gebeden, op de weeckelijcke bede-uiren, ende maentlijcke vast ende bededagen, voor ende nae de predicatien te gebruikken. Volgens resolutie van de ... heeren Gedeputeerde Staten, uit last van de jonghst-gehoudene provinciale synode, 't samen gestelt*. Groningen: Rembertus Huysman, 1672

Aim

This project aims to contribute to the research on the special days of prayer in the Dutch Republic. In particular to the questions whether they were a religious or political phenomenon or both, and in what way they played a role in a kind of 'national identity'. This research can be expanded to other key moments in the history of the Republic, such as the death of a stadholder and the start of a new stadholder.

Output

Article (2022)

Available time

0,1 fte

Hyun-Ah Kim

Research on the Christian Hebraism of Philips van Marnix: Psalms, *Musica Poetica*, and the Protestant spirituality of Dutch exile. This research combines a literary, historical, theological and musicological approach to analyse musico-poetic constructs in Marnix's translation of the Psalms, thereby deepening our understanding of the poet's spiritual life in the context of Protestant exile in the late-sixteenth century. The way in which Marnix's work weaves a web of intertextual complexities that highlight the interaction of Christian and Jewish scholarship is researched, which influenced the theological and political views of the period.