Newsletter
Department of Geography, Planning and
International Development Studies

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Agenda
Tue 26 May Symposium: Van folklore tot kapitaal: De ‘cultural turn’ in de Nederlandse geografie, 9.00-13.30 hrs
Doelenzaal, Universiteitsbibliotheek
Tue 26 May Valedictory speech Hans Knippenberg “Hoe God emigreerde naar Amerika; Geografische
bespiegelingen over godsdienst in Europa en de Verenigde Staten”, 15.00 hrs, Aula Universiteit van
Amsterdam
14.00-17.00 hrs, room E150

Monthly column from your AMIDSt director, Ton Dietz
Dear colleagues,

This monthly message is about one of the most controversial elements of our current research institutions: measuring performance. Some people think this is one of my nicest hobbies. They are wrong. They are right, though, if they say it is one of the elements of the ‘scientific industry’ that, according to me, is of utmost strategic importance. Soon all AMIDSt senior members of staff will get a concept ‘performance profile’, and - after corrections, if these are needed – this plays a role in the annual jaargesprekken. But this is not only important for senior staff. PhD candidates and junior staff are confronted with the ‘performance measurement culture’ as well, and it will definitely play a role if they want to prepare themselves for a career in Academia. So let me explain some of the principles and ideas behind the system we use. Although they won’t get a ‘performance profile’ sheet, I start with the PhD candidates. I use most of my explanation for the senior staff. And I end with the junior staff and with some final touches.

PhD candidates. In the Dutch system a successful PhD graduation, with a book manuscript published in one way or another, has long been seen as the singular goal of a PhD trajectory. Currently there are growing numbers of PhD candidates, who graduate on the basis of a PhD manuscript that consists of three to five published articles in refereed journals (and one or two additional chapters; often the introduction and the conclusion). PhD graduates with a book and four published chapters often have much higher chances in the competition for NWO grants than PhD graduates with “only a book”. Writing a book-length text requires different skills compared to writing four journal articles. Within AMIDSt most researchers will easily agree that a lot of research-as-we-know-it would deserve a full-length book, if you have the time to spend three to four research years on a major research project in the fields of geography, demography, planning or international development studies (probably the only time in your life you can do so!). However, many will currently also admit that this strategy seriously undermines the chances of PhD graduates on the academic labour market and the status of our scientific disciplines. Ever more supervisors advice their PhD candidates to produce a PhD dissertation on the basis of journal articles. Or to...
produce journal articles alongside the book-length text. I am shifting to that position. I nowadays advice my PhD candidates who would like to join the ranks of university staff to write a dissertation on the basis of journal articles. And I tell others that it would be wise to write at least two articles in refereed journals and one more ‘societal product’ (also see the PhD Guide). And I do so, not only because I would like to raise their academic chances, but also because so many ‘book-only’ products hardly feature in academic citations, and often have very little academic and societal impact. I regard a “book on a shelf” as a rather wasteful result of an individually and socially expensive pastime, even if it has produced another happy Doctor.

Senior staff. Society demands impact for money spent. Researchers are supposed to have academic and societal impact, and to show it. However, measuring scientific impact is a hell of a job. Many science-metric approaches use less far-going ‘proxies’: they often combine the measurement of citations (e.g., using the Web of Science of ISI; or alternative systems, like the ones of Scopus or Google Scholar), and the measurement of direct results (‘output’): the lists of publications. The research performance profiles used within AMIDSt now relate ‘output’ with ‘input’, and they relate those to standards: what can be expected as minimum performance per 100 hours of research time, for a period of five years in a row?. If you get your personal performance profile you will see that it has the following information:

- a downward correction for periods of illness, pregnancy and parent leave during this period;
- a downward or upward correction for your over- or under-'investment' of teaching time for these five years (based on the ‘Sjoerd files’).

You better check these data meticulously!

In addition you get an assessment of your ‘products’ during those five years, based on the information in the UvA METIS system, and valued according to a simplified version of the current CERES method (see http://ceres.fss.uu.nl; go to: valuation; rating list, and see the explanatory notes and the details of the journal and publishers valuation). You will find a list of your products, and each one of those with the ‘value’ attached to it, and the ‘credit’ it gives you. There are eight categories:

- A: journal articles in the top of the ISI system; as well as books/book chapters with the most prestigious publishers
- B: journal articles in the rest of the ISI system; as well as sub-top publishers
- C: other articles in refereed academic journals, and with less prestigious academic publishers
- E: articles in non-refereed academic journals and in non-academic journals, and with non-academic publishers
- F: successful PhD graduations under your guidance (at the UvA or elsewhere; and with or without other colleagues)
- R: reports for funding agents (mostly ‘3d stream research’)
- O: some other products (internal reports, working papers, bookreviews)
- P: successful acquisitions of major research funds

Please check:

- a) Is the list of my publications complete and correct? (if not: inform the AMIDSt secretariat and make sure it enters METIS!; don’t blame anyone: we all make mistakes; and please look in the mirror).
- b) Do I agree with the value attached to my list of products? (if not: inform the AMIDSt secretariat, but don’t blame the system).
- c) Do I agree with the credit attached to it? (and again: there may be mistakes, so please check indeed).

And you can add two additional types of performance data: 1) if you are an editor (a real one, not a person mentioned in a long list of editorial committee members) of a refereed journal or a book series with a prestigious publisher; 2) if you (co-) supervised successful external dissertations These columns are still empty or incomplete; we simply don’t have adequate data yet. So: please inform the AMIDSt secretariat.

In your performance profile you will see two rows: a first one with all performance credits (A+B+C+E+P+R+O+F+M; this row is called: ‘credits of quantity’), and a second one, called ‘credits of quality’ (or of ‘academic relevance’, which adds up A+B+C+P+F). If you wish: the difference can be seen as a measure of ‘societal relevance’. AMIDSt uses the CERES standards: for each 100 hours of research time you are supposed to produce a minimum of 1 total performance credit and 2/3 quality credit. The last column compares your ‘quantity’ and ‘quality credits’ with the standard. More than 100 means you are above the standard; below 100 means you are below the standard. Our preliminary assessment shows that for AMIDSt as a whole production has been >140% of the standard for both ‘quantity’ and ‘quality’, and all four research programme groups are beyond the minimum standard, although some groups higher than others. But it also shows major differences between individual performance profiles: from extremes of beyond >400% to much lower than 100% for either ‘quantity’, or ‘quality’ or both.

What will happen to senior researchers who have performed below the minimum standard? During the annual performance discussion with the Head of Department (or her stand in, the Research Programme Leader), which will take place in June for most senior staff, the reasons for underperformance will be discussed and a ‘qualification trajectory’ will be agreed upon, for one or two years. Next year this will be monitored, and on the basis of the new five-year performance profile (then: 2005-2009) further steps will be discussed. If
underperformance continues, the research time will possibly be adjusted in consultation with the Head of Department and the directors of the College and Graduate School of Social Sciences.

What about junior staff? As with teaching, junior researchers (postdocs, new UDs) will be evaluated differently. For two calendar years upon their PhD graduation they will be expected to produce half the amount of ‘performance credits’ compared to senior staff, or to say it the other way around: only half of their research time will be counted. This is a ‘soft landing’ strategy that gives them time to build up a portfolio of publications, because we all know that it may take one or two years before concept publications will finally appear in print (or on the web).

Experience in CERES has taught me many lessons about the responses to this type of ‘number crunching’. On the one hand, I know that there will be many questions about ‘the system’. Of course I am willing to answer these questions and I can try to solve problems, and this is also true for Gert. But it would also be good to discuss issues with your ‘representatives’ in the AMIDSt kantoor, or directly with its chair, Jochem de Vries. On the other hand, of course I know that this is just one way of performance measurement. I think we have gradually developed a fair, and transparent measurement system, that fits ‘our way of doing things’. But there are still numerous social scientists who vomit at the idea, and who use many sticks to put in as many of these measurement wheels as possible. My judgement is: if they continue doing that, we will soon be confronted with measurement systems that do not fit us at all (the ones loved by many economists and psychologists), and that have the strategic effect of marginalizing most of the social sciences.

If we play this game effectively, it will improve individual and group performance by enabling (or provoking) much more effective publication strategies. Next month I hope to add some more ‘food for thought’ about better follow-up strategies. That also has to do with the need to really put more effort in your personal websites. Please spend some time at http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/homepage. And please agree that most AMIDSt staff (senior, junior and PhD) is not doing that adequately, and the majority is not even doing it at all. And isn’t it high time to update your personal information on the AMIDSt website? The AMIDSt secretariat is willing to assist you.

Ton Dietz, May 2009

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**Link for submitting publications**

Please submit your publications via the following link as soon as your publication has been published. This way the publication will appear in DARE as soon as possible, and the publication will be available online.

http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/amidst/jaarverslag/publicaties.html

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**Uitnodiging symposium & afscheidsrede Hans Knippenberg**

Dinsdag 26 mei 2009

9:00 - 13:30 uur Symposium: Van folklore tot kapitaal: De ‘cultural turn’ in de Nederlandse geografie

Doelenzaal, Universiteitsbibliotheek

Ter gelegenheid van het afscheid van Prof. Dr. Hans Knippenberg, hoogleraar in de Sociale Geografie, in het bijzonder van politieke en culturele verschijnselen, organiseert de leerstoelgroep politieke en culturele geografie van de Universiteit van Amsterdam een symposium over de potenties van de nieuwe culturele geografie. Inlichtingen en aanmeldingen symposium: Dr. Gertjan Dijkink g.j.w.dijkink@uva.nl en/of Dr. Virginie Mamadouh v.d.mamadouh@uva.nl

15.00 precies: Afscheidsrede Hans Knippenberg: Hoe God emigreerde naar Amerika; Geografische bespiegelingen over godsdienst in Europa en de Verenigde Staten

Aula van de Universiteit van Amsterdam

Tussen Europa en de Verenigde Staten bestaan frappante verschillen in de mate waarin godsdienst een rol speelt in het dagelijks leven, maar ook in de publieke sfeer. Waar Europa reeds lang het toneel is van een voortschrijdende secularisering, blijft godsdienst een wezenlijk element in de Amerikaanse politiek en cultuur en vormt de VS een levendige markt van elkaar beconcurrerende godsdienstige ‘ondernemers’, die voor een zeer gevarieerd aanbod zorgen. In dit afscheidscollege zal een poging ondernomen worden dit verschil tussen Europa en de VS te verklaren aan de hand van bestaande sociaalwetenschappelijke theorieën en inzichten uit de (politieke en culturele) geografie.
New publications

**New Forms of Urban Governance in India. Shifts, Models, Networks and Contestations**
Edited by I.S.A Baud & J. de Wit

This collection of articles looks at the impact of decentralisation on local governance and citizen participation in urban democracy processes in India, from different perspectives, providing examples from major cities throughout the country.

The book examines how local governments work together with other actors in governing their localities in Indian mega-cities; especially what new forms of governance are emerging as a result of globalisation and internal transformation processes. It analyses whether new forms of governance open up opportunities for more participatory urban governance, improved service delivery with positive implications for poor groups in India's cities and whether these processes are inclusive for all residents in mega-cities, or exclude particular groups.


**Transit Oriented Development - Making it Happen**
Edited by Carey Curtis, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, John L. Renne, University of New Orleans, USA and Luca Bertolini, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

This volume brings together the different stakeholders and disciplines that are involved in the conception and implementation of TOD to provide a comprehensive overview of the realisation of this concept in Australia, North America, Asia and Europe. While TOD systems have been implemented widely, there are still strong vested interests (property, community, state) which encourage the maintenance of the car-dependent urban form.

The book firstly identifies these various challenges and shows, through a range of international case studies, successful ways of addressing these. It provides a range of insights into how to move from TOD policy to regulation; urban design solutions; issues for local governance; the need to work with community; and the commercial realities of TOD. It shows how many barriers have been overcome, while others remain and new ones are emerging. The book draws together the key principles that make TOD happen, addressing both substantive issues (what needs to be done, and when) and procedural issues (who needs to be involved, and how)


**Problemen in wijken of probleemwijken?**
Redactie: S. Musterd & Dr. W. Ostendorf


Gender, Work & Finance in Times of Globalisation

AMIDST lecture by Wendy Larner and Melissa Fisher, Thursday, 11 June 2009, 14:00-17:00 hrs, room E150

Neoliberal Women? Imagining, Calculating and Mediating the Globalising Economy:
Wendy Larner, of Human Geography and Sociology at the University of Bristol
My research examines the twenty-fifth and fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the Financial Women's Association, a network composed of Wall Street women in New York City. Drawing on archival materials from the FWA and ethnography conducted in the network, I interpret FWA anniversary events as performative sites which provide an opening to delve into the ways Wall Street women retrospectively recollect the past, situate the present, and contemplate the future. In particular, I examine women's reflective engagement with the past, present, and future by drawing attention to the place and attendees of celebrations, the multi-media produced and displayed, and the story-telling invoked at these particular moments marked by 25 years of time. In this lecture, my analysis of events (their planning, staging, debates over people, and place) illustrates how emerging female financial elites work with the materials of city-space, architecture, story-telling, slide-shows, and memorabilia - to insert their version of the history and contemporary status of women on Wall Street and the landscape of global finance.

Accommodating Creative Knowledge: Urban and Regional Policy Perspectives
Amsterdam, 27 May 2009
Creative and knowledge-intensive industries have been the favourite targets of city-regional development strategies throughout the advanced capitalist world in the first decade of the 21st century. The current deep financial and economic crisis, however, may cause urban and regional policy-makers and other stakeholders in the city-regional economy to reconsider their development and competitiveness strategies. Are creativity, innovation and knowledge still the most wanted resources for a bright economic future? Can creative and knowledge-intensive industries still be seen as the most promising growth engines of city-regional economies in the longer run? Assuming that this is indeed the case, which city-regions possess the right features and amenities to stay or become competitive creative knowledge hubs? Which policies and strategies are needed to attract and retain creative and knowledge-intensive industries and – at least as important – the talented people that found these companies or work for them?
This conference will present the preliminary results of an on-going EU-funded research project on these themes: 'Accommodating Creative Knowledge – Competitiveness of European Metropolitan Regions within the enlarged Union' (ACRE). After a general introduction of the project results so far, 5 city-regional case studies on specific sub-themes will be presented: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Budapest, Helsinki and Munich. We will continue with a panel discussion with experts from local policy practice from those 5 city-regions. The panel members are representing the Local Partnerships that the ACRE research teams have set up in their city-regions to facilitate the knowledge transfer between the ACRE researchers and the stakeholders in regional economic development. The conference will conclude with an excursion to one of Amsterdam’s emerging new creative hotspots.
http://acre.socsci.uva.nl/conference/index.html
No conference fee! However, please register by sending an e-mail to Anja van Os, anja@ccaa.nl

Call for applications Global Challenges and the Conference "Our Common Future"
The Volkswagen Foundation intends to invite 100 promising young researchers from all over the world interested in and capable of contributing to the conference "Our Common Future" to be held in November 2010 in Hanover and Essen, Germany, focusing on global challenges of the 21st Century. The conference and a preparatory phase in the course of the year 2010 will be held on topics of the following research areas:
- Climate Change and Energy
- Technology; Communication; Mobility; Factory of the Future
- Economic and Urban Development
- Global Health and Molecular Medicine
- Human Rights; Migration and Integration; Religion and Values
You can find more information on the following website:
http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/funding/off-the-beaten-track/our-common-future.html?L=1
Please, submit your application before July 31, 2009.

RC21, IJURR, FURS: 2009 Summer/winter school notice

IJURR and RC21 of the International Sociology Association are holding an inaugural "School" on "Comparative Urban Studies" in Sao Paulo this August. The School is being organised together with the Centre for Metropolitan Studies in Sao Paulo, with funding from the Foundation of Urban and Regional Studies (FURS), RC21, IJURR and the CEM. It will take place in Sao Paulo (Brazil) from the 17th to the 22nd of August 2009, immediately prior to the RC21 Conference on “Inequality, Inclusion and the Sense of Belonging” (23rd-25th August 2009). Topics to be studied in the School include the similarities and differences between cities in the global North and South; Sao Paulo itself (to include guided tours of the city); segregation, inequality and poverty; belonging and exclusion in the city.

The School is aimed at postgraduate students and junior researchers in urban studies from across the world. We expect between twenty and twenty-five students only, and we are offering about fifteen generous scholarships for participants from countries classified in category "B" and "C" by the ISA.

We are now asking for applications for places and scholarships.

The link is: www.shakti.uniurb.it/winter2009. Here you will find all relevant information.

Call for Papers: Science, Technology and Innovation in Cities and Regions

ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg, Sweden, 11-17 July, 2010

Housing, real estate, infrastructures and labor markets in urban areas are severely affected by the global financial crisis. All are under intense pressure. Threats and opportunities compete with each other. Which particular research, technology and innovation policies are appropriate in these circumstances? Which development strategies and transformations will be favorable or relevant? At the same time is the question: who is to gain, whose city is at stake? The time horizon also comes in: how about short-term policy options vs long-term policy consequences? We would welcome both empirical and theoretical research, as well as papers focused on comparative urban analysis.

Deadline: November 30, 2009

Joint Session of RC02 Economy and Society and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology [host committee]. Organisers: RC23 Maarten Mentzel, AMIDst, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, mentzel@uva.nl, and RC02 Sylvia Walby, Lancaster University, UK, s.walby@lancaster.ac.uk

Benoemingen

- Dr. Karin Wittebrood is benoemd tot bijzonder hoogleraar ‘Sociale veiligheid in de stedelijke publieke ruimte’ vanwege de Stichting Synthesis. Karin Wittebrood is werkzaam als senior onderzoeker bij het Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau en geniet bekendheid op het gebied van vraagstukken van sociale veiligheid. Zij zal binnenkort met de afdeling kennismaken in een bijeenkomst van de programmagroep Urban Geographies, waarvoor nog een datum moet worden vastgesteld.


Loopbaan training voor promovendi van de UvA

In de onderstaande training voor promovendi van de UvA van het Loopbaan Advies Centrum (LAC) zijn nog enkele plaatsen beschikbaar:

29 mei en 5 juni 2009 9.30-17.00 uur, tweedaagse training Loopbaan Oriëntatie voor Promovendi; Onderwerpen in de training zijn: inzicht in een realistisch zelfbeeld, wat wil je, wat kan je, wat zijn de mogelijkheden, helder krijgen van huidige situatie in relatie tot toekomstperspectief, methodieken van arbeidsmarktonderzoek en informatiekanalen, netwerken en vaardigheden van het solliciteren (brief, cv, sollicitatiegesprek, etc).

Gratis training, Inschrijven vóór 22 mei 2009 via mail naar training-sts@uva.nl oov naam workshop/training.

New colleagues

- Annalies Teernstra, PhD student UG
Personal webpage
For all staff members there’s a possibility to make their own personal page, which you can update yourself. It’s accessible at: https://home.medewerker.uva.nl/homepage; log in with your UvAnetID. When you’re done, click on “Activate” to publish your personal page. Inform the AMIDSt secretariat so they can link this to the AMIDSt website.

Out of office
In order to be more helpful towards our colleagues it’s important that the secretariat has a good overview of the room occupations. Therefore, we kindly ask you to report to the secretariat the days you are out of office (due to holidays, fieldwork, illness, etc.)

Common room
The common room and kitchen is communal space. We would appreciate it if everyone keeps this space tidy and does his/her own washing-up. It is not the task of the secretariat.