

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, complex satellite dish antenna. The structure is made of a dense network of metal beams and is silhouetted against a sky that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow at the bottom, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The dish is angled upwards and to the right. In the lower-left corner, there is a semi-transparent grey box containing text.

Quality Non-Fiction from Holland

Nederlands
letterenfonds
dutch foundation
for literature

2015

Dutch Foundation for Literature

The Dutch Foundation for Literature has the task of supporting writers and translators, and of promoting Dutch literature abroad. It is an independent organization, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

The Foundation's advisors on literary fiction, quality non-fiction, poetry and children's and youth literature are present each year at prominent book fairs, including Frankfurt, London, Beijing and Bologna. *Books from Holland*, *Quality Non-Fiction from Holland* and *Children's Books from Holland* recommend highlights from each category's selection.

Translation Grants

Foreign publishers wishing to publish a translation of Dutch or Frisian literature may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. Having acquired the rights, the publisher's application must be accompanied by a copy of the contract with the rights owner and a copy of the contract with the translator. Application forms are available from the Foundation's website. Subsidies are paid after receipt of complimentary copies, with printed acknowledgement of the Foundation's support. A sample translation may be required and evaluated by our external advisors. Applications for translations that have already been published cannot be taken into consideration. Publishers looking for a qualified translator can request a list of endorsed translators for their language area.

Illustrated Books

In the case of illustrated children's books and/or graphic novels, foreign publishers can apply for assistance to cover a portion of the production costs.

Promotional Travel

The Foundation is able to support a publisher wishing to invite an author for interviews or public appearances. Literary festivals are likewise eligible for support. Additionally, the Foundation organizes international literary events in co-operation with local publishers, festivals and book fairs.

Writers-in-Residence

The Foundation coordinates writer-in-residence programmes together with foreign universities and institutions. International authors are invited to spend time working in Amsterdam. They may stay one or two months at the writers' lodgings above the Athenaeum Bookshop on the Spui (in co-operation with the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts).

International Visitors Programme

The visitors programme and the annual Amsterdam Fellowship offer publishers and editors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the publishing business and the literary infrastructure of the Netherlands.

Translators' House

The Translators' House offers translators the opportunity to live and work in Amsterdam for a period of time. It is involved with numerous activities assisting and advancing translators' skills. Each year the Literary Translation Days are held for those translating into and from Dutch.

Schwob: Discovering International Classic Works of Fiction

Schwob draws attention to and supports as-yet undiscovered, untranslated classics of world literature. Each month the editors select new titles on www.schwob.nl.

Dutch Foundation for Literature

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Non-Fiction

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Fiction

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Joris Luyendijk

Swimming with Sharks

My journey into the World of Bankers

A reportage about the time bomb at the heart of our society

One of the few upsides to the financial crisis has been the wealth of books published about its causes and consequences. They include some excellent anthropological accounts, of which Luyendijk's bestseller is among the most valuable.

It is the product of a two-year collaboration between Luyendijk and *The Guardian*, during which he conducted over two hundred interviews with those who work in the City of London, Europe's financial capital. Written for a broad audience, it asks straightforwardly: what happened? And, even more importantly: could it happen again? Luyendijk is no financial expert, which makes his efforts to decipher the workings of the closed world of finance in simple terms all the more impressive. He pulls no punches and the story he tells is nuanced, entertaining, poignant, convincing and, yes, profoundly frightening.

Luyendijk first explores the problems that define Planet Finance, and then goes on to evaluate potential solutions. He

starts with layman's questions, before delving deeper and deeper into more complex activities of the financial sector, painting a comprehensive yet comprehensible picture of the financial world, from bankers and insurance brokers to wealth managers; from front- to back-offices. Luyendijk sees a large bank not as a single entity but as 'an archipelago amidst the fog'. Having described how the City and its corporations are structured, he explores their culture by bringing to the fore various types of interviewee, from 'tooth grinders' to 'bubble bankers', laying bare their inner struggles. The amorality that shapes financial dynamics is chillingly revealed in these interviews.

The author's mood gradually changes. At first he is simply curious, but later chapters are dominated by outright anger and disbelief. The main problem facing post-2008 societies is that 'the underlying structure of the financial world remains intact'. However reprehensible the behaviour of some individual bankers, it is the perversity of the system that needs to be addressed.



Anthropologist and journalist **Joris Luyendijk** worked as a Middle East correspondent for five years. His books include *Hello Everybody* (Profile, UK), which has appeared in over a dozen countries and examines how journalists and correspondents really work, rather than how they claim to work. For *The Guardian* he blogged about the financial world from an anthropological perspective. Those blogs lie at the root of *Swimming with Sharks*

Publishing details

Dit kan niet waar zijn. Onder bankiers (2015)
207 pp. (55,000 words)
160,000 copies sold

Publisher

Atlas Contact

Rights

Nurnberg Agency
Marei Pittner
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Rights sold

Germany (Klett Cotta)
UK (Faber)
Finland (Atena)
Sweden (Natur och Kultur)
Denmark (Tiderne Skifter)
Hungary (Corvina)
China (Citic Press)

Photo: Merlijn Doomerik



'With the curiosity of an ethnologist, Joris Luyendijk explores the parallel world of the London banker. He tells of an archipelago shrouded in mist, where mercenaries ply their trade.'
– *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

'Horrific portrait of bankers. ... Free of banker bashing and clichés. Even bankers turn out to be almost human, capable of humour and introspection – which makes this portrait all the more damning.'
– *de Volkskrant*

'Marvellous journalistic work.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

Linda Polman

Death Row Dollies – *Living with the death penalty*

A chilling piece of reportage about those on Death Row and why they are there

The best way of making abstract suffering tangible is through personal stories. In *Death Row Dollies*, investigative journalist Linda Polman plunges into the bizarre universe of the American death penalty 'industry' and those crushed in it.

Polman presents a wealth of absurd, harrowing and moving stories, along with her own observations, garnered from time spent over several years in the company of 'death row dollies'; European women who passionately link their fates to that of death row inmates in Texas.

She follows not only the British, Italian, German and other trans-Atlantic 'dollies' to their cheap motels around death row in

Texas' boondocks, but also the tireless ladies of Texas' own tiny anti-death penalty movement, and widows and orphans who, after the execution of husbands and fathers, are left behind with the inheritance: often not much more than letters and a table fan. And she meets with the inmates themselves.

Polman's bitter sense of humour and her lively, no-nonsense style give the book pace and the reader room to breathe, but nowhere does she lose sight of essentials. She casts doubt on America's image as a land of unlimited opportunity by implicitly asking which is more reprehensible: the terrible crimes committed, or the punishment that the good inflict.

'Death Row Dollies is a powerful piece of investigative journalism that exposes some of the darker side of American society.'

– *Opzij*

'Journalist Linda Polman has immersed herself in the phenomenon heart and soul, with fascinating results. This book is impossible to put down.'

– *De Telegraaf*

'Hilarious, heart wrenching, chilling, and on top of that, very well written.'

– *Jellie Brouwer, Radio Kunststof*

'A fantastic book: hallucinating scenes, masterly written. With the necessary distance, but very humane and extremely funny at times.'

– *De Interne Keuken, Radio 1 Belgium*

'Polman describes the women and their criminal partners with great empathy and not a trace of sarcasm. Her attitude of genuine concern creates a moving portrait of a closed world devoid of hope.'

– *Elsevier*

'Wonderful. Warmly recommended ... It is precisely Polman's combination of in-depth investigative journalism and intimate description of human tragedy that ensures her readers have understanding, or at least sympathy, for all those involved.'

– *De Correspondent*



Linda Polman worked as a freelance journalist for Dutch television and radio, for European radio stations and for Dutch and Belgian newspapers and magazines. She is also a lecturer on journalism at the University of Utrecht. Her earlier books include *The Floating City* (1991), about journeys she made through Zaïre, Kenya and Malawi, *Bot pippel* (1993), a report on Haitian refugees, and *We Did Nothing: Why the truth doesn't always come out when the UN goes in* (1997). For *The Crisis Caravan* (2008) she investigated humanitarian aid organizations. The book became an international bestseller.

On *The Crisis Caravan*

'One of the finest reporting journalists of the modern age – Polman is gutsy, intellectually penetrating and far from naïve' – *Evening Standard*

'Essential reading' – *The Times*

'Cool, brusque, fearless. A marvellous account' – *The Guardian*

On *We Did Nothing*

'Excellently written, very sad and devastating. It would be important if responsible people could read it and draw conclusions' – *Ryszard Kapuściński*

'This book recalls the reportage of Ryszard Kapuscinski and the black humour of Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene's fiction' – *The Guardian*

'A testament to the limits of human suffering and of attempts to rescue some humanity' – *Times Literary Supplement*

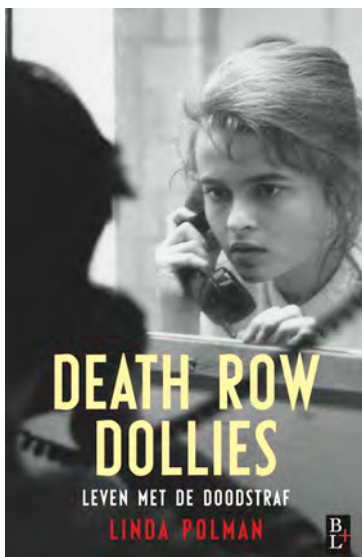
'Deeply impressive. A very intelligent and well-written book' – *Die Zeit*

Publishing Details

Death Row Dollies. Leven met de doodstraf (2015).
264 pages, 66.253 words

Rights

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Alexander Münninghoff

Heir and Successor

A Family History

A turbulent family history, told with wry humour

'I was born in Posen on 13 April 1944,' writes Dutch journalist Alexander Münninghoff in *Heir and Successor*, his family's story. This fact conceals a horrifying reality.

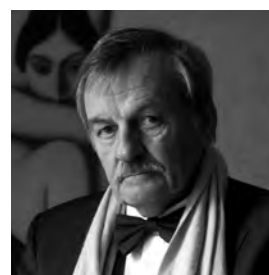
The Polish city of Posen (Poznań) was the logistical hub from which the German army invaded the Soviet Union. In the last year of the war, Münninghoff writes, Posen was subjected to a 'miserable setting of scores', with large numbers of wounded or dead and an 'endless procession of refugees wanting only one thing: to get away'. Münninghoff's family was not merely affected by this drama, it also bore some of the blame.

The story of the author, his parents and grandparents is marked by a series of astonishing and tragic events, which reflect much of the complexity of the Second World War. Born the son of a German-Russian mother and a Dutch-Russian father, Alexander Münninghoff grew up in the postwar years with his grandparents in Voorburg in the Netherlands. His grandfather had founded a trading empire in Riga before the War and in January 1940 fled to the Netherlands with his wife – a Russian countess – and

their children. There he traded with the German occupier while at the same time hiding Jews and negotiating with members of the resistance about postwar Dutch politics. His eldest son Frans joined the SS and left for Posen, where Alexander was born.

These contradictions and conflicts of interest had huge consequences for Alexander and his family. After the War their difficulties only increased, especially when Frans threw his wife out of the house and she fled to Germany with young Alexander. Alexander was the Münninghoff family's heir and successor, so his grandfather then had him abducted and brought back to the Netherlands. The relationship between Alexander and his father, who had by no means renounced his Nazi beliefs, failed to improve. He lost all contact with his mother, and when he found her again as an adult she was living in wretched conditions.

In the end it took Alexander more than fifteen years of investigation and writing to free himself from his traumatic childhood – which is fortunate for us, since no general or official history can match family stories written with such care and appropriate detachment.



Alexander Münninghoff (b. 1944) is a journalist and expert on Russia. A winner of the Prize for Newspaper Journalism, he is the author of *Tropical Years in Moscow*, about his time as a correspondent in the Soviet Union. *Heir and Successor* is autobiographical, based on facts and family stories.

Publishing details

De Stamhouder (2015)
330 pp. (101,812 words)
50,000 copies sold

Rights

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Ronit Palache,
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www.uitgeverijprometheus.nl

Rights sold

Mlada Fronta, Czech Republic

Photo: Willy Slingerland



'There are some wonderful anecdotes in *Heir and Successor*, but in the end, however charmingly and elegantly written, it is a deeply tragic story of failed loves, broken dreams, unfulfilled expectations and ineluctable fate. These are people in search of things lost forever: a fatherland, a love.'

– Elsevier

'The flawless style, almost incidental humour and level-headed perspective on blood-curdling events lift the book far above any everyday family chronicle.'

– De Morgen

Lucas Ellerbroek

Planet Hunters

The search for extraterrestrial life

The fascinating story of the birth of a new field of study and the human struggles that have accompanied it

Astronomers are on the verge of answering one of the most profound questions ever asked: are we alone in the universe? The ability to detect life in remote solar systems is at last within sight. Its discovery, even if only in microbial form, would revolutionize our self-image. *Planet Hunters* by Lucas Ellerbroek helps us to prepare for such a paradigm shift.

For centuries it has been impossible to tell whether or not our solar system is unique. Since 1995, however, astronomers have discovered more and more planets orbiting stars other than our sun, known as exoplanets. The latest results of NASA's Kepler space telescope tell us that Earth-like planets are plentiful, and future giant telescopes, whether in space or on the ground, will be able to detect 'biosignatures' in their atmospheres, molecules that betray biological activity on their surfaces.

Ellerbroek describes the search for extraterrestrial life in its proper historical perspective, making this a book that will retain its value for years to come. A European author, he takes an international approach that is sometimes lacking

in American books on the subject. He is part of a Continental tradition that includes early ideas about extraterrestrial life by Giordano Bruno, mathematical studies by Dutch physicist Christiaan Huygens, and the very first discovery of an exoplanet by Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz.

As its title suggests, *Planet Hunters* is as much about the people behind the discoveries as it is about extraterrestrial life.

Ellerbroek has travelled the world to talk to leading scientists in the field, including Principal Investigator for NASA's Kepler mission Bill Borucki, astrobiologist Sara Seager and radio astronomer Jill Tarter, one of the pioneers of SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence). Their passion and perseverance make for an exciting and compelling read.

Ellerbroek is a natural storyteller. A professional astronomer with broad educational experience, he takes readers on a fantastic voyage through space, time, history and the future. *Planet Hunters* is a delightful mixture of stories about smart-alec nerds, the search for extraterrestrial life and the history of an academic discipline.



Astronomer **Lucas Ellerbroek** (1984) studied Theoretical Physics and obtained a PhD in Astrophysics at the University of Amsterdam. He is well known in the Netherlands for his television appearances, TedX talks and for co-founding Nerd Nite Amsterdam. Currently, he works as a strategy consultant for the Boston Consulting Group and as a free-lance journalist for *NRC Handelsblad* and popular science youth magazine *Kijk*.

Publishing details

Planetenjagers. Op zoek naar buitenaards leven (2015)
288 pp. (76,994 words)
5,000 copies sold

Rights

Prometheus / Bert Bakker
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Photo: Sacha de Boer



'Thousands of planets resembling Earth, hundreds of light years away, await discovery. The gripping adventure has reached a new stage, described colourfully in this book.'
– Gerard 't Hooft, winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize in Physics

'Ellerbroek is a gifted author. In clear, short sentences he guides his readers through a complex subject. He is rare among professional astronomers in his ability to inhabit the world of the public at large.'
– De Volkskrant

Mineke Schipper

Covered or Uncovered

From Naked to Suited up

A mix of anecdote and historical interpretation about clothing and nakedness, and the taboos surrounding them

What has happened to human beings since we walked naked across the savannah? We braved the cold, we loved being attractive, we learned how to make an impression – but above all we felt embarrassed. Embarrassment was the original motivation for covering up. It started with a judiciously placed strand of fibre, in some cases developing into a tent-like robe. In *Naked or Dressed* Mineke Schipper describes attitudes to bodily exposure in different cultures.

For millennia we felt no embarrassment about nakedness, but one thing that could make a man look ridiculous was a spontaneous erection, and the oldest garment of all consisted of a thread wound round the foreskin to tuck the penis up out of sight under a strap worn round the hips.

Little by little, people began to decorate themselves, with tattoos, feathers, paint, nose rings, armbands, chains, headdresses, shoes – and clothing. Then, on leaving Africa for colder northern climes, we started to dress. Research shows that pubic lice began to nestle in the hair of our warm lower bodies between 70,000 and

40,000 years ago, many thousands of years after head lice, which could infest naked humans.

Nude bathing remained the norm in Europe until diseases like plague and syphilis became rampant in the sixteenth century and the authorities closed down bathhouses. It was then that the first bathing costumes emerged, complete with stockings and headgear for both men and women. These were remarkably similar to the 'burkini', the swimsuit in which pious Muslim women may enjoy the water today.

There have been times in which European men were every bit as coquettish and ostentatious as women, decking themselves out in costly and colourful clothes, complete with wigs, hats and ornate shoes. But with the French Revolution, came in more sober attire; men opted for uniformity and an air of utility, and it was no longer important to be seen as beautiful. For women it still is. Schipper delves into controversies concerning the degree of female nudity permitted in Europe, Africa, China and the Arab countries and shows how different cultures have tried to curb nakedness.



Mineke Schipper is emeritus professor of intercultural literature studies at the University of Leiden and the author of academic books, essays and novels, including *Imagining Insiders*, *Africa and the Question of Belonging* (1999). Her *Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet* (2004) was translated worldwide.

Publishing details

Bloot of bedekt. Van niets om het lijf naar strak in het pak (2015)
277 pp (71,902 words)
With notes and references
1,000 copies sold
English sample available

Publisher

Prometheus / Bert Bakker

Rights

The Susijn Agency
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www.minekeschipper.nl

Photo: Rosa Verhoeve



'Mineke Schipper has written a fascinating book about how much we cover or expose our bodies in public, now and in the past.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

'*Naked and Dressed* is a fascinating book about the culture of modesty and openness.'
– *Vrij Nederland*

'An intriguing book about the history of clothing rules, in which religion has always had a crucial part to play.'
– *Knack*

Bettine Vriesekoop

Daughters of Mulan

How women are changing China

Fascinating conversations with Chinese women of diverse background and outlook

Since the death of Mao, life in China has moved ten times faster than in the West. Ramshackle towns have become glittering metropolises, half a billion people have been lifted out of grinding poverty and brand-new millionaires strut their stuff. Beliefs about female sexuality are changing rather more slowly, however, and this is where Bettine Vriesekoop's *Daughters of Mulan* come in.

In Confucius' hierarchical social order, a woman had to obey her father, her husband and, if widowed, her sons. She practised the 'four virtues': morality, correct use of language, modesty and diligence. Romantic love was confined to poetry. Only women of the elite and brave 'sword women' dared to stand out. One famous sword woman was the legendary Hua Mulan of the book's title, who fought as a warrior for twelve years disguised as a man.

China's first feminist, Qiu Jin, also liked to dress as a man. She was beheaded in 1907. Vriesekoop describes how, under Mao, Qiu's ideals were incorporated into state feminism: equality between men and women, education for girls, and a ban on foot-binding, arranged marriage and polygamy. This meant women could go out and get jobs – but they still also had to do the housework. The Cultural Revolution turned them into sexless creatures.

In forthright reportage, Vriesekoop describes how the economic revolution and the one-child policy have improved the position of Chinese women. But the sexual revolution is only just beginning.

There is little sex education. The pressure to marry is so great that most homosexuals remain in the closet. Even today, parents often decide whom their daughter will marry. A man will not want to marry a woman who is cleverer or richer than he. Women unmarried at twenty-five are still regarded as pitiful 'leftovers'. A conversation with one of these, a cultivated, affluent woman, is one of the highlights of the book.

The old practice of killing girl babies at birth has been replaced by abortion. Prostitution was virtually eliminated under Mao and is still illegal, yet today it's a thriving business. Ex-prostitute Lanlan, who defends the interests of sex workers, says: 'A woman in China gets three crucial chances in life: education, marriage and a job.' Prostitutes generally miss out on all three.

Vriesekoop describes her memorable meetings with colourful modern women, including two lesbians who work at the Durex condom factory, a female plastic surgeon – who offers to work on Bettine's face – and the emancipated tai chi virtuoso Gau Yu, a modern-day sword woman.



Bettine Vriesekoop (b. 1961) was European table-tennis champion in 1982 and 1992. She ceased participating in high-level sport in 2002. Her many contacts with Chinese table-tennis players inspired her to study sinology at the University of Leiden, after which she became correspondent in China for *NRC Handelsblad*. She has written a number of books about her experiences in China, including *Homesick for Peking* (1994) and *A Thousand Days in China* (2011). She now writes books and articles and gives lectures on China.

Publishing details

Dochters van Mulan. Hoe vrouwen China veranderen (2015)
272 pp. (63,448 words)
4,000 copies sold

Rights

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Photo: Friso Keuris



'...empathetic social reportage about the troubled relationship between the sexes in China. Vriesekoop's observations are candid and her writing finely tuned.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

'Vriesekoop's book is essential reading for anyone who wants to know more about the position and sexuality of women in China. And it could not be more readable.'
– *De Aziatische Tijger*

René ten Bos

Water

A Geo-Philosophical History

A fascinating aqueous journey through philosophy and literature

René ten Bos investigates how philosophers have thought about water and how water has made philosophers think. He takes us on a wide-ranging journey through centuries of ideas and experience, exploring water's diverse meanings and manifestations in life, literature, philosophy and politics. He considers water as a source of life, as a mirror of nations and the human soul, as unfathomable depth and immeasurable strength, as a threat and as a highway for travel and trade.

Ten Bos begins at the source of Western civilization, in the philosophy of Thales, Heraclitus, Plato and Aristotle, examining the role of rivers and the sea in their thinking. Although fascinated by flow and fluidity, most philosophers were in search of firm ground, with a distinct preference for dry land. The sea and its harbours were seen by Plato as a netherworld capable of undermining the stability and order of Athens.

Ten Bos connects ideas about politics, democracy and dictatorship with reflections on the differences between lakes,

rivers and coastal districts. He traces the transition from a mythical, poetic world to a more scientific view, which often evoked fears that water might be reduced to a simple object of investigation, to H₂O.

Water gushes and meanders like an untamed river through a mountainous landscape, exploring convergences between water as metaphor and as vital necessity, as elemental substance and as fishing grounds, as an obstacle and as primal soup. Ten Bos discusses *Moby Dick* and Grotius, examines Peter Sloterdijk's philosophical thinking on flow, and contemplates diving and resurfacing, changing moods, international law, amphibians, and our immense fear of the briny deep.

Because philosophy has always sought solid foundations, we forget that it has its roots in currents and tides. Ten Bos restores fluidity of thought, moving smoothly back and forth between the poetry of the sea and the hard reality of polluted and rising water, between the imagery of melancholy moods and the hard work that water now requires of us. *Water* is an original, inspiring book by an innovative and accessible thinker.



René ten Bos (b. 1959) is professor of philosophy and organizational theory at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. He has published on subjects including organizational ethics, strategic management and gender issues. His talks have made him a speaker much in demand among both academic and general audiences.

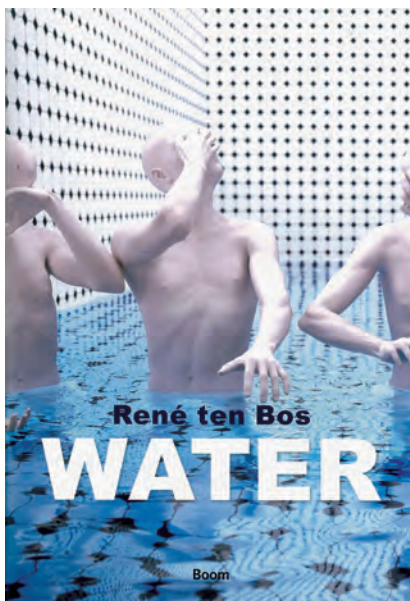
'Johns, smugglers, pickpockets and knife-wielders are to be found in the vicinity of the rivers and seas. Where there is water, the louche and disreputable are never far away. Water, well-to-do citizens think, is fishy. Water is ominous. Water is where people ought not to be. In this book we will see that an attitude of suspicion towards water took shape even in the philosophy of ancient Greece.'

Publishing details

Water. Een geofilosofische geschiedenis (2015)
352 pp. (134,000 words)
With notes and references
2,500 copies sold
English sample available

Rights

Boom Filosofie
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'René ten Bos advocates admitting intuition and ethics to philosophy. [...] He looks back to the poets, writers and philosophers whose thinking about the earth's cohesiveness was fluid, non-mechanistic and intuitive.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

'Water is an erudite book, written in a carefree style and full of elegantly portrayed images, insights, theories and observations.'
– *Vrij Nederland*

'Ten Bos could explain Heidegger to a four-year-old.'
– *De Standaard*

Marli Huijer

Discipline

Survival in Surfeit

How discipline fell out of favour and is now making a comeback

In early 2015 Marli Huijer was named Thinker Laureate. The title is a Dutch invention, a philosophical counterpart to the Poet Laureate. As such she was asked to reflect on current issues and to share her thoughts with the public. The honour fell to Huijer partly on the strength of her celebrated book *Discipline*, a stimulating philosophical discourse on contemporary humankind in a world of unprecedented opportunity.

In her clear and enjoyable book, and with great clarity, Huijer investigates attitudes to discipline over past decades, especially the 1960s, when many forms of authority were overthrown, when parental authority, binding social and sexual norms, and hierarchies in classrooms and workplaces were challenged. We are still plucking the fruits of the freedoms won in those years, but among the consequences were stress, obesity, alcoholism and indecision.

Freedom needs discipline. Based on the theories of such philosophers as Aristotle, Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault, Huijer discusses the interaction between

society and individual. She compares Catholic ideology with stricter Protestant structures, acknowledging the rise of capitalism to Protestant discipline. Nevertheless, with capitalism now dominant worldwide, there are renewed calls to discipline our desires. How are we to deal with an abundance of time, information, material goods, food and drink, and with the diversity of love affairs, family structures, education and work opportunities available to us? How are we to know what we want and abide by our choices?

Using intriguing examples – crowd discipline at pop concerts; order in the army and in child-rearing; self-control on a shopping trip – Huijer dissects different forms of discipline in changing times. She closes with an analysis of today's circumstances, in which the disciplining of our urges is partly delegated to apps that guide our behaviour. Freedom continues to grow and we are expected to keep a grip on our impulses, which can be an immense challenge. Huijer shows how we have sought a new balance time and again, from one era to the next.



Marli Huijer (b. 1955) studied Medicine and Philosophy and is professor of philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam. In early 2015 she was named Thinker Laureate of the Netherlands. Her books include *Rhythm. In search of recurring time* (2011).

Publishing details

Discipline. Leven in overvloed (2015)

274 pp. (134,000 words)

With notes and references

4,500 copies sold

English sample available

Rights

Boom Filosofie

Niels Cornelissen

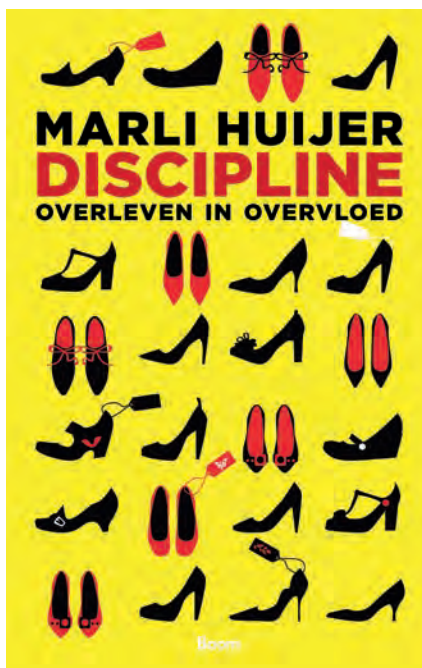
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www.uitgeverijboom.nl/english

Rights sold

Germany (WBG)

Photo: Bert Nienhuis



'Eating too much, drinking too much, internetting too much . . . it's become virtually impossible to control ourselves. Philosopher Marli Huijer finds that discipline has flown out of the window, just when we need it most.'

– *Psychologie Magazine*

'Huijer has chosen an important and topical theme, and she throws light on it from all sides without being dull for a moment. A laudable achievement.'

– *Trouw*

'Huijer gives short shrift to our prioritizing of freedom.'

– *NRC Handelsblad*

Brenda van Osch

The Unfinished Child

In search of the limits to early life

What to do with a baby which can fit on a sheet of A4 paper?

When Eva, first-born child of Dutch journalist Brenda van Osch, came into the world ten weeks early, she weighed 680 grams, less than a bag of sugar. At birth she was 'red and slightly translucent, like a newborn rabbit,' as Van Osch writes, 'both unfinished and perfect.' For months Eva struggled for her life in hospital. Once she eventually came home it gradually became clear that her development was severely delayed. She went to live in a home for children with severe disabilities when she was six.

Ten years later Van Osch decided to go back to an intensive care unit for premature babies to investigate the ethical dilemmas of both doctors and parents that she barely had had time to contemplate when Eva was born. How far do we want to go in saving children born far too soon? Should we always apply every medical option available? In *The Unfinished Child* she draws on her own experience, on a

great many conversations with neonatologists and nurses and on interviews with other parents.

The Unfinished Child is an open-hearted, sincere and critical book, both investigative journalism and moving memoir. In a unique way it contributes to the international debate on when a premature baby is viable and the many ethical dilemmas involved.

The question of whether enabling Eva to live was the right decision is central to *The Unfinished Child*. Van Osch admits that no answer can be totally unambiguous. Had she known the outcome of her daughter's life, would she and her husband have wanted all the medical aid available?

She is not sure. But now that Eva is part of her world, she loves her. 'She's there. She's alive,' is all she can conclude. Simple words that stand for a maelstrom of hope and fear, dilemmas and decisions, disappointments, blessings and confusion.



Brenda van Osch (b. 1972) is a journalist. After studying Political Science at the University of Amsterdam she worked ten years as an editor at the economic section of the weekly *Elsevier*. Since 2007 she writes freelance for several newspapers and magazines. In *NRC Handelsblad* she writes the weekly interview feature 'Life Lessons' on subjects like choices, pain and ambition. She is the mother of Eva and two sons.

Publishing details

Het onvoltooide kind. Op zoek naar de grenzen van pril leven (2015)
256 pp. (55,000 words)
3,000 copies sold

Rights

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Photo: Lennard Duijvestein



'Brenda van Osch confronts us with the dilemma as well as the despair of parents faced with premature babies with complications: how far should you go in treating the very premature?'

– *Elsevier*

'The book's accessible writing makes it valuable for both the medical profession and the general public.'

– *Medisch Contact*

'Parents and doctors face difficult choices when a child comes into the world far too soon. Van Osch writes about them movingly.'

– *De Volkskrant*

Abel J. Herzberg

Amor Fati & Between Two Streams

Sparkling observations of human nature and values

Amor Fati, the collection of essays that Abel Herzberg (1893-1989) published in 1946 include some of the earliest and most impressive reflections on the Holocaust. Their analytical profundity and clarity of perception places them among the greatest works of Holocaust literature, on a par with those of Tadeusz Borowski, Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel.

Unlike them, Herzberg wrote within a year of his liberation from Bergen-Belsen, which lends his essays a unique combination of direct experience and raw anger on the one hand and, on the other, given what he had undergone, an almost superhuman rationality. The seven essays were originally written for the weekly *De Groene Amsterdammer*, to mark the first anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from German occupation. They have since found a new readership many times over, as younger people discover in Herzberg's work an answer to the existential questions raised by the Holocaust. As a survivor he wanted readers of his essays to understand 'what human beings are capable of, and to what, unless we are vigilant, they can be reduced'.

In *Amor Fati* we find the ethical question that preoccupied Herzberg for the rest of his life: why did the Nazi hate the Jew? In 1946 he concluded that the Jew, purely by existing, challenged the Nazi to choose monotheism. The Nazi, however,

was drawn to heathenism, to a world without principles, law, restraint and any desire for justice. This preference being problematic, the Nazi blamed the Jew for his dilemma. Few survivors attained such abstract level of thought, let alone as early as 1946.

Essential to a better understanding of Herzberg's essays are his diary entries from Bergen-Belsen, first published in 1950 and later in English as *Between Two Streams*. After internment in The Netherlands by the German occupier, he and his wife Thea were transported to Bergen-Belsen. Unlike most Holocaust witnesses, in his diary, Herzberg not only described what happened there but made a start on understanding how such a hell could exist. 'It's not that six million Jews were murdered. A Jew was murdered six million times.'

During the final months of the War, Bergen-Belsen became so overwhelmed with ever more thousands of Jews moved there with the retreating German army, dying in ever greater numbers than the authorities could manage, that in desperation they filled a train with Jews for transport eastwards. Thea and Abel Herzberg were on the train. It was stopped by the Red Army at Tröbitz near Leipzig. Herzberg's diary ends shortly before his arrival there. His modern, unadorned style and clarity of thought have moved generations of readers ever since.



Abel J. Herzberg was born in Amsterdam in 1893, the son of Russian emigrants. He worked as a lawyer until his death in 1989. He wrote plays and novels but is best known for his highly personal essays and memoirs *Amor fati* (1946) and *Between Two Streams* (1950). He also wrote *Chronicle of the Persecution of the Jews* (1950), which deals with the German occupation of the Netherlands. In 1972 he was awarded the P.C. Hooft Prize for his oeuvre, the highest award of Dutch letters.

Publishing details

Amor fati (1946) and
Tweestromenland (1950)
Amor Fati: 23,400 words; *Between Two Streams*: 84,800 words

Rights

Querido
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www.querido.nl

Translations

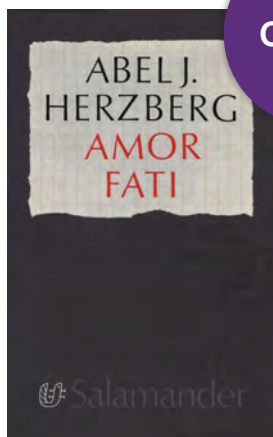
Between Two Streams
United Kingdom, 1997, 2008
Germany, 1997

Amor Fati
Germany, 1997
Italy, 2004
Israel, 2016

English-language PDF of *Between Two Streams* available

For further information see
www.letterenfonds.nl/translations

Photo: Edith Visser



Classic

On *Between Two Streams*:

An unusually probing, sensitive, and eloquent diary of incarceration at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. ... Harsh and gentle, intimate and public, these sparkling observations of human nature and values resonate with that spirit which cannot be beaten or starved out of us.

– *Kirkus Reviews*

Marcel Ruijters Hieronymus

Hieronymus joins the recent successes of graphic biographies, such as Vincent, Rembrandt, Munch and Anne Frank

Five hundred years after the death of 'devil maker' Hieronymus Bosch, his modern counterpart Marcel Ruijters presents a graphic novel about the life of the Netherlands' most famous mediaeval painter.

Hieronymus tells the story of Jeroen van Aken, a.k.a. Hieronymus Bosch, who lived in the city of Den Bosch in the Middle Ages. We see the painter with his rich clients and in church with senior clergy, the intelligentsia of the time. We also see the lives of the common people: on the street Bosch had to beat off the drunken poor with a stick, and on his way to a monastery he kept lepers away by tossing them coins. Ruijters shows such popular medieval entertainments as 'pig-tag', in which blind people were put in a pen with a pig, and tents in which deformed people or exotic animals were exhibited; tooth-pulling was a crowd-gatherer, too.

Hieronymus Bosch's life story starts in the Van Aken family studio, with work being produced on commission. Allart du

Hameel, master builder of Den Bosch, was interested in Jeroen's work and took him to Leuven (Louvain) but Jeroen returned, tormented by homesickness and traumatic memories of the great fire in Den Bosch, a memory he repeatedly used in his work. In *Hieronymus* you can almost feel the heat of the fire in Ruijters' fabulous reds.

Back in Den Bosch, Jeroen transformed the family business into a painters' studio. He reinterpreted traditional religious scenes, giving place to devils and demons, hence his later nickname. He began to sign his work – far from common practice in those days – and his devilish pictures brought him international fame.

No author is better suited to a drawn biography of Hieronymus Bosch than acclaimed graphic novelist Marcel Ruijters, who has been inspired before by the graphic treasures of the Middle Ages, conveying them in all their brilliance as well as their horror. *Hieronymus* is as ominous as that of the great master's paintings.



Marcel Ruijters (b. 1966) is one of the most original graphic novelists of the Low Countries. In his earlier books *Thank God It's Ugly* and *Troglydites*, his fondness for mysterious and malformed creatures – something shared with Hieronymus Bosch – was already evident. Ruijters made his name internationally with stories about the Middle Ages in *Sine Qua Non*, *Inferno* and *All Saints*, all in his instantly recognizable 'woodcut' style. The three have appeared in several languages. His work has been exhibited all over the world. In 1992 he won the Best New Talent Award at the Haarlem Strip Days and in 2015 he received the Stripschap Prize, the Netherlands' highest distinction for comic-strip creators.

Publishing details

Hieronymus (2015)
160 pp., full colour

Publisher

Lecturis

Rights

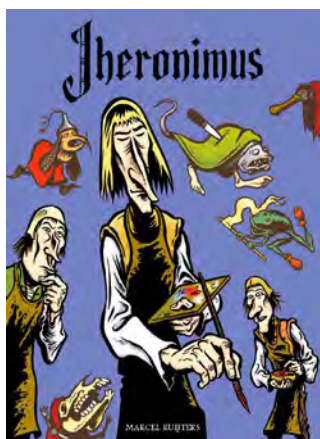
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Rights sold

UK (Knockabout)
Germany (Avant Verlag)
Denmark (Forlaget Forlaens)

Photo: Gert Jan Pos

Graphic
Novel



On *Sine Qua Non*:

'It's a joy to see Ruijters' nuns fighting with demons or bushmen, as he tells his story with a goodly dose of humour. One of the most refreshing albums of 2005.'

– De Poort

On *All Saints*:

'This book will not remain on the shelves for as long as Ruijters' devils burn in hell, so don't miss out!'

– Stripaap

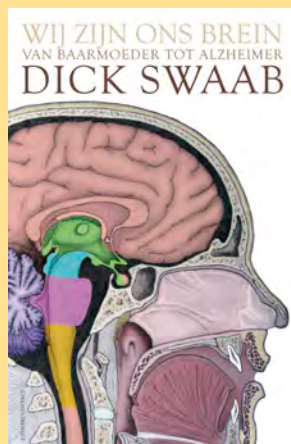
Successful Titles

Making a Splash on the International Literary Market

A sweeping biography of the human brain

Dick Swaab
We Are Our Brains From the Womb to Alzheimer's
 (Wij zijn ons brein, 2010)
 450,000 copies sold

Rights: Hayo Deinum, h.deinum@atlascontact.nl
Rights sold: Afrikaans (Protea), Chinese (Renmin University Press), English (Spiegel and Grau), German (Droemer), Hebrew (Zmora Kinneret), Hungarian (Libri), Italian (Elliot/Antidoti), Korean (Open Books), Russian (Limbakh), Serbian (Plato), Spanish (Plataforma), Taiwanese (Azoth) and Turkish (Arkadas).



'This is an exceptionally rich and skilfully written book that will soften the reader's heart in the face of countless strange behaviours and emotions he will no doubt recognize in others – and in himself. – *Trouw*

'So much can go wrong in our brains that, after reading Swaab's book, one can't help but be amazed that anything ever goes right.' – *Boston Globe*

The extraordinary story of an unconventional woman and her determination to survive

Paul Glaser
Dancing with the Enemy
 (Tante Roosje, 2010)
 4,000 copies sold
<http://dancingwiththeenemy.net/>

Rights: Barbara J. Zitwer Agency, zitwer@gmail.com
Rights sold: Chinese (China Citic Press), Czech (Triton), German (Aufbau), English (Nan A. Talese / Doubleday and Oneworld Publications), Italian (Bompiani), Polish (Rebis), Portuguese (Rocco), Russian (Corpus), Slovak (Motyl).



'Glaser weaves together his interviews with Rosie in Sweden and his research into her amazing letters and diaries, and he tells the story in her voice parallel with his surprising discoveries of his own identity. An essential addition to the Holocaust collection.' – *Booklist*

Winner of the prestigious Prix du Livre Européen and the Prix Louis Marin in France

Luuk van Middelaar
The Passage to Europe
 (De passage naar Europa, 2009)
 4,500 copies sold

Rights: Patrick Everard, international@historischeuitgeverij.nl
Rights sold: Arabic (Sphinx), Chinese (Orient Publishing Center), English (Yale University Press), Estonian (Eesti Maailmavaate), French (Gallimard), German (Suhrkamp), Hungarian (Typotex), Polish (Wydawnictwo Aletheia), Portuguese (Realizações Editora Espaço Cultural Livrario), Spanish (Galxia Gutenberg), Turkish (Türkiye İş Bankası)



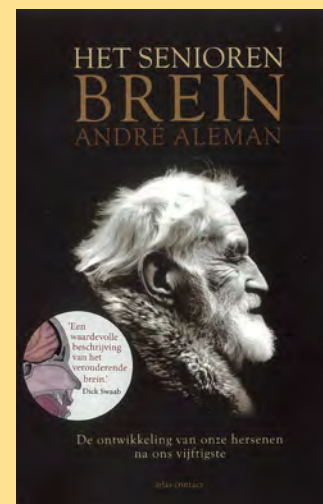
'Philosophically informed and historically sensitive ... original, subtle and refreshing' – *Times Literary Supplement*

'It is a discerning, balanced, gracefully written book, flavoured with the insights of political science but filled with the meat of European Union history over six decades.' – *Financial Times*

What goes on in our heads as we age? When do things begin to fall apart, and how quickly does that happen?

André Aleman
Our Ageing Brain
 (Het seniorenbrein, 2012)
 41,000 copies sold

Rights: Hayo Deinum, h.deinum@atlascontact.nl
Rights sold: English (Scribe), French (Autrement), German (Beck), Hungarian (Corvina), Turkish (Alfa).



'A refreshing, informative and ultimately positive book about what happens to our brains as we grow old.' – *Bookworld*

'Aleman's book is an appeal for a more positive view of growing old.' – *NRC Handelsblad*

Recent Translations

This is a selection of recently published translations from the Dutch. For more information please go to our online database of translations www.vertalingendatabase.nl.



Mirjam Bolle
Letters Never Sent

Ik zal je beschrijven hoe een dag eruit ziet
Published in English by Yad Vashem, Israel in 2014. Translated by Laura Vroomen. Also in Danish (Høst & Søn), German (Eichborn), Finnish (Kirjapaja), French (Denoël) and Swedish (Norstedts).



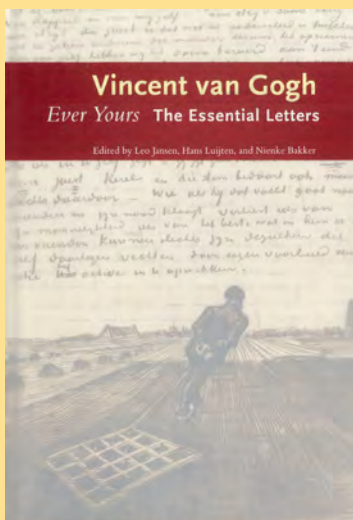
Jan Brokken
The Revenge

De vergelding
Published in German by Kiepenheuer & Witsch in 2015. Translated by Helga van Beuningen.



Eveline Crone
The Adolescent Brain

Het puberende brein
Published in Chinese by Peking University Press in 2015. Translated by Liao Ma. Also in Danish (Turbine), German (Droemer), Hebrew (Or Yehuda Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir) and Italian (Kowalski).



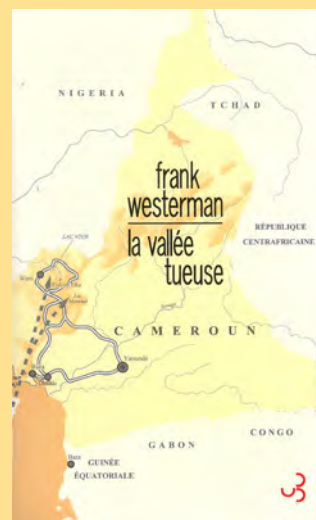
Vincent van Gogh
Ever Yours. The Essential Letters

Brieven van Van Gogh
Published in English by Yale University Press in 2014. Translated by Lynne Richards, John Rudge and Dianne Webb (Dutch) and Sue Dyson and Imogen Forster (French).



Rudi Westendorp
Growing Older without Feeling Old

Oud worden zonder het te zijn
Published in English by Scribe in 2015. Translated by David Shaw. Also in German (Beck), Hungarian (Libri) and Italian (Ponte Alle Grazie).



Frank Westerman
Choke Valley

Stikvallei
Published in French by Christian Bourgois in 2015. Translated by Annie Kroon. Also in Croatian (Durieux), Italian (Iperborea), Spanish (Siruela) and Swedish (Leopard).

Joris Luyendijk
Swimming with Sharks

Linda Polman
Death Row Dollies

Alexander Münninghoff
Heir and Successor

Lucas Ellerbroek
Planet Hunters

Mineke Schipper
Covered or Uncovered

Bettine Vriesekoop
Daughters of Mulan

René ten Bos
Water

Marli Huijer
Discipline

Brenda van Osch
The Unfinished Child

Abel J. Herzberg
**Amor Fati &
Between Two Streams**

Marcel Ruijters
Hieronymus

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