

An engraving of a scholar sitting at a desk, reading a book. The desk is cluttered with books, a quill pen in an inkwell, and a scroll. A globe is visible in the background. The scholar is wearing a cap and a long robe.

Memory and Identity in the Learned World

*Community Formation in the
Early Modern World of Science
and Learning*

Conference at Utrecht University

This conference aims at bringing together historians of knowledge, art historians, heritage scholars, philosophers of identity, museum curators, sociologists, literary and cultural historians, etc., who are studying cults of memory and community formation in the early modern world of science and learning. The central question for this conference is how scholars, scientists, and learned men and women formed a community by remembering and identification.

This conference is organized by members of the ERC-funded research project SKILLNET: Sharing Knowledge in Learned and Literary Networks.



Utrecht University

7-9
November
2019



CALL FOR PAPERS

CONFERENCE MEMORY AND IDENTITY IN THE LEARNED WORLD

The Republic of Letters — the early modern community of scholars — has been vaguely conceptualized in historiography. Some take it to be the correspondence networks between scholars; others equate it very broadly to the entire early modern learned and intellectual world. Yet, how did early modern scholars themselves imagine the Republic of Letters? To answer this question we focus on community formation through scholarly identity and collective memory. Scholarly identity includes both exemplary figures such as Erasmus or Newton, as well as the self-fashioning of other scholars to fit a mold. Collective memory pertains to the ways of remembering in the scholarly community, for example in letters, vitae, journals, *opera omnia*, monuments, libraries and memorials. By bringing together scholars who have knowledge of disparate aspects of the scholarly milieu in the early modern period, we hope to better reconstruct the formation of the trans-confessional and pan-European community.

Suggestions for papers are:

- Scholarly values, virtues and vices
- Monuments, memorials, and other “sites of memory” (*lieux de mémoire*)
- Biography, auto-biography and other forms of life-writing
- The role and (social) position of women in the learned world
- The self-definition of the learned world by early modern actors
- Correspondence networks, especially their codes of conduct and social hierarchy
- Friendship and bonds, e.g. in *Alba amicorum*
- The emergence of a discourse around the Republic of Letters in the early eighteenth century (e.g. in theatre, dissertations, and books) both positively and negatively
- The role of Digital Humanities tools, such as named entity recognition (NER) and sentiment analysis in text-mining large scholarly corpora.

PROPOSAL TYPES

The conference will contain a variety of different papers, including paper presentations (20 min.) and object/source presentations (10 min.). The object/source presentations allow for a presentation of a specific source or object, for example the Newton tomb in Westminster Abbey or an antiquarian manuscript. We also invite advanced (research) master students to give a short presentation of their work.

CFP DEADLINE:
1 MAY, 2019

call
for
papers

SUBMISSION

Please submit your paper proposal (max. 300 words) or object/source proposal (max. 200 words) including a personal biography (max. 150 words) before 1 May, 2019 as an attachment (pdf- or doc-file) to an e-mail to Koen Scholten (k.scholten@uu.nl).