

ReMA Programme:  
Global Economic  
and Social History

# GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY

INTERUNIVERSITY COURSES AND RESEARCH TRAINING  
FOR AMBITIOUS RESEARCH MASTER STUDENTS

*"I would recommend the Posthumus Courses to all types of research master students. They are challenging when one is experienced in social-economic topics, they probably offer one of the best introductions for people who aren't."*  
(Rosa Kösters, University of Amsterdam)

**N.W. POSTHUMUS** INSTITUTE

# FOREWORD

Dear (future) Research Master student,

Economic and social history is a scientific field buzzing with energy and creativity. This brochure invites you to become part of our research community.

Social and economic historians are eager to connect the study of history to the grand themes of today's world, such as social and other forms of inequality on a global scale, the development of resilient communities, and issues of social cohesion and integration. Social and economic historians combine an awareness of the relevance of time and context with a readiness to apply concepts and techniques developed in the social sciences. Within the Posthumus community, many fascinating research projects are currently being conducted, ranging from an analysis of urban marketplaces in sixteenth-century towns to the development of global slavery, and from the impact of colonialism on non-western societies to the issue of success or failure of societies in coping with hazards.

Since you opened this brochure, you may be interested in writing your Master thesis in this exciting specialisation. The N.W. Posthumus Institute offers courses that will help you to get to know the field, the major topics that deserve to be studied, and some of the leading scholars in our community. We are the Research School for Economic and Social History, an inter-university organization in which almost 300 scholars in the Netherlands and Flanders cooperate. Research schools organise training programs for Research Master and PhD candidates. These activities profit from the expertise that scholars have accumulated in their particular fields.

This brochure informs you about our courses and other training activities. Students pursuing a Research MA in History in the Netherlands and students completing an MA in History in Flanders are eligible to enrol in these courses. Participation in the Posthumus Institute brings you into contact with many inspiring researchers who will challenge you to reflect upon your own research ideas. It is also the best way to prepare for a future PhD application in economic or social history.

We hope to meet you in the Posthumus courses!

Dr Jessica Dijkman  
Scientific Director

Dr Rogier van Kooten  
Education Programme Director



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ANNUAL COURSE 1

# DEBATES IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Period : Semester 1 (October – January)

Credits : 10 EC

Language : English

Location : International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam)

Time : Wednesdays 12:30-16:30

Coordinators : Dr Matthias van Rossum, Dr Filipa Ribeiro da Silva, Rosa Kösters MA

*Why are some countries rich and others poor? When did globalisation begin? These are just a few of the questions that are tackled by social and economic historians. The rise of global history has stimulated comparisons and contrasts and has intensified scholarly exchange through numerous debates.*

The course offers an introduction into debates concerning globalisation, the Great Divergence and worldwide inequality, worldwide networks and global-local relations, and the consequences of globalisation for identity formation. The course also looks at a number of in-depth studies related to global history, such as migration, the environment, revolutions, economic growth and capitalism, and science and technology. It consists of six bi-weekly sessions, in principle at the IISH in Amsterdam, where two senior historians will introduce the different topics.

At the end of the semester (January), all participants are expected to attend a final research seminar. During this seminar, the Research Master students who participated in the course and wrote a final essay will present this and receive comments by fellow students.

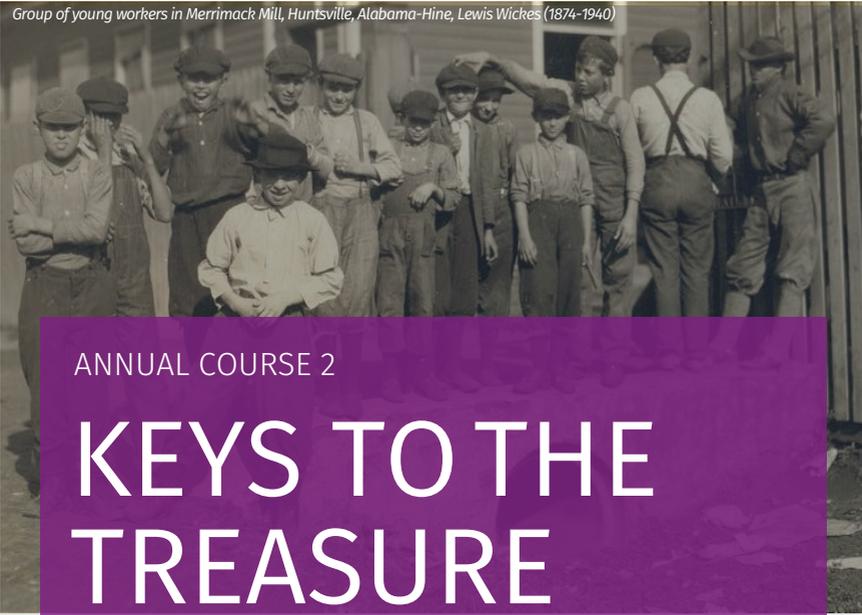
You will earn 10 EC by attending all classes, preparing the written assignments for each session and engage in discussions based on preparatory readings. Moreover, you will write an essay on a debate or a historiographical topic and present it during the final research seminar.

Students are also invited to visit the annual Posthumus Conference, which takes place every year in May or June. They may sign up as a discussant for a paper at the conference.



*Woman sorting tobacco leaves in Dutch East Indies, O. Kurkdjian, 1912, RP-F-F01069-AH, Collection*

Group of young workers in Merrimack Mill, Huntsville, Alabama—Hine, Lewis Wickes (1874–1940)



ANNUAL COURSE 2

# KEYS TO THE TREASURE TROVE

METHODS AND SOURCES  
IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
HISTORY

Period : Semester 2 (February – May)  
Credits : 5 / 10 EC  
Language : English  
Location : Radboud University (Nijmegen)  
Time : TBA  
Coordinators : Dr Paul Puschmann & Professor Jan Kok

*This methodological course hands you the keys to the treasure trove, which contains the tools for doing professional research. Building up a thorough knowledge of various sources and methodologies will provide you with inspiration and the capability to develop creative ideas for your future research.*

Social and economic historians often apply models and theories from the social sciences to explain historical patterns and developments. This methodological course hands you the keys to the treasure trove, which contains the tools for doing professional research in social and economic history. A thorough knowledge of and insight into materials and methods will enable you to develop creative ideas and to realise your own research goals. We invite methodological experts in economic and social history, including oral history, spatial analysis, statistics, database management, as well as cultural approaches to social and economic history, such as discourse analysis. These invited lecturers from Dutch and Flemish universities will teach you the tricks of their trade.

Students are expected to attend all classes, read the prescribed literature, and write and present a final paper.

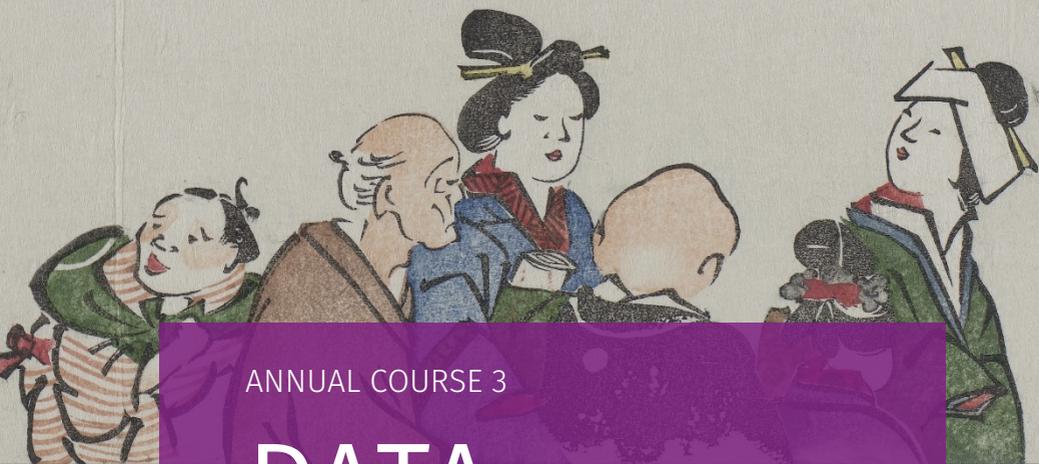
Students can take the class for 5 EC, by writing an basic paper (3,500-4,000 words), or 10 EC by writing an extended paper (7,000-8,000 words).

Course objectives:

- Gaining insight into a range of sources and methods in social and economic history.
- Obtaining the skills to use sources and apply methods in a sound way.
- Embedding your personal research interests in methodological traditions.
- Training in the use of theories and various primary sources.
- High-level training in presentation skills, both in written and oral form.

*Three equestrian portraits, 1596-1630, RP-P-1885-A-9618, Collection Rijksmuseum*





ANNUAL COURSE 3

# DATA MANAGEMENT FOR HISTORIANS

Period	: Semester 2 (February – April)
Credits	: 5 EC
Language	: English
Location	: online
Time	: Thursdays 16:00-18:00
Coordinator	: Dr Rick Mourits

Researchers in economic and social history regularly work with historical records, such as prices, wages, or demographic data. These historical data are studied to produce tables, graphs, and statistical analyses to get insight in historical processes. An often invisible, but crucial part of the quantitative research cycle is the transformation of rudimentary data into intelligible information. Data management and data manipulation are required to digitise, explore, clean, and operationalise otherwise unintelligible data.

The aim of this course is to provide research-oriented history students with a thorough introduction into data management and introduce them to R and Linked Data. As such, the course provides essential background to students working with quantitative historical data and allows students to understand, organise, and report on data management processes without the use of advanced quantitative methods. To do so, the course concentrates on four objectives:

- Understanding the quantitative research cycle and data pipelines
- Critical evaluation of data
- Basic understanding of programming in R and SPARQL
- Being able to report on data management

In addition, the course emphasizes transparent data management by using open access software, sharing scripts, and producing small data stories.



*Javanese court functionaries, Anonymous, ca. 1820 - ca. 1870, NG-20110-38, Collection Rijksmuseum*

ANNUAL COURSE 4

# QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR HISTORIANS

Period : Semester 2 (April – June)  
Credits : 5 EC  
Language : English  
Location : Utrecht University  
Time : Thursdays, 13:15-17:00 (provisionally)  
Coordinator : Dr Robin Philips

Marchants, Ryūtsū Shigeharu, 1830 – 1832, Rijksmuseum, RP-P-OB-AP-68

Researchers in economic and social history regularly often employ statistical analyses to study patterns in their data. When combined with historical insights, these quantitative methods allow researchers to consider a wide range of explanations at the same time. To acquaint students with quantitative research, this course offers a thorough introduction of statistics, aimed at research master students interested in economic and social history. It focuses first on getting the basics right: what is the aim of statistics, which types of variables are there? Then, working with one or two variables, it discusses how quantitative data can be used to describe and explore historical patterns, and to test theories about these patterns. Of course, the questions historians address often require the study of several variables or a detailed analysis of chronology. Regression analysis is an invaluable tool to use quantitative data for such questions. Accordingly, the final weeks of the course introduce students to regression analysis, allowing students to engage with quantitative literature in the field and providing a foundation for further in-depth study of regression analysis.

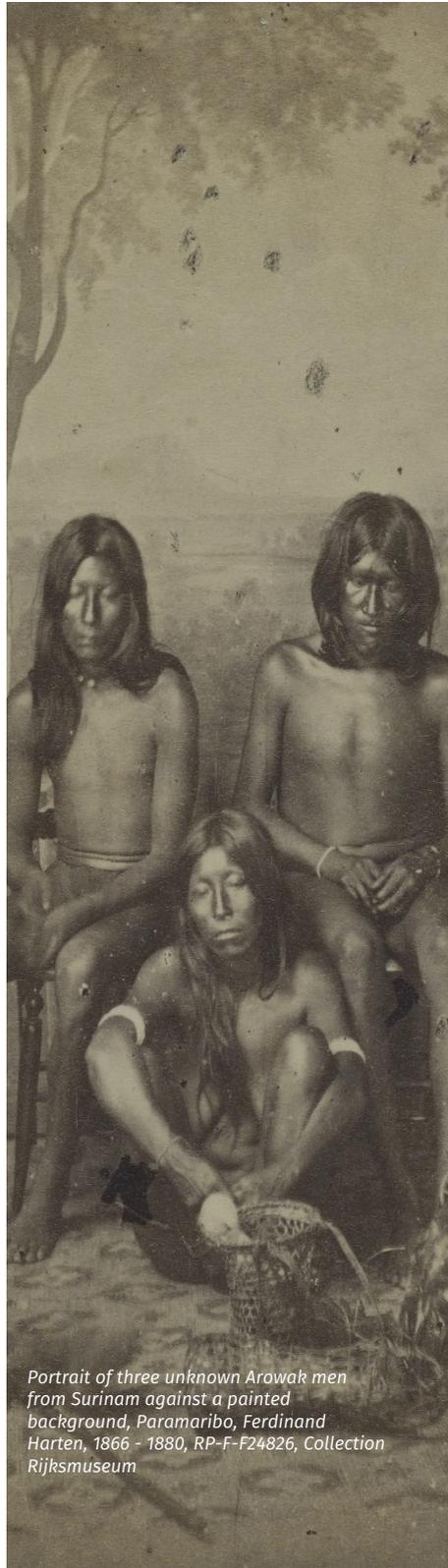
# OTHER TRAINING ACTIVITIES

In addition to the courses that are tailor-made for Research Master students, the N.W. Posthumus Institute organises several other training activities that may be interesting for Research Master students. Occasionally, the N.W. Posthumus Institute organizes 'Masterclasses' for PhD candidates, which are, in some cases, open to Research Master students too. In this training activity, a well-known 'master' shares knowledge with a small group of students. Masterclasses focus on a particular subject, theme or research concept.

Increasingly, the N.W. Posthumus Institute organises Summer and Winter Schools on specific research tools and techniques, such as advanced statistics and social network analysis. These, and our other activities, will be announced in the electronic newsletter of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. If you wish to subscribe to our newsletter, please visit [www.posthumusinstitute.org](http://www.posthumusinstitute.org).

*"If you want to expand your knowledge about a wide variety of social-economic subjects, which are examined with an even wider variety of methods, then the Posthumus courses are a great choice."*

*(David Bijsterbosch, Radboud University)*



Portrait of three unknown Arowak men from Surinam against a painted background, Paramaribo, Ferdinand Harten, 1866 - 1880, RP-F-F24826, Collection Rijksmuseum

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Posthumus Research Masters Courses are open to students pursuing a Research Master in either History or a similar discipline such as Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, or Geography. Master students from Flanders or other universities without a Research Master programme, but who attained good grades in their BA trajectory, can also apply. These students should however be recommended by one of the aforementioned contact persons. The courses are complementary to each other; together, they provide students with a strong background in economic and social science history. Graduates who have successfully engaged in the Posthumus network are highly qualified to apply for a PhD position.

## Application procedure

If you would like to apply for (one of) the courses, fill in the application form on [posthumusinstitute.org](http://posthumusinstitute.org). Please note that there are deadlines for applications, which will be announced on our website and in our newsletters. Please note that the deadline for the first Research Master Course, 'Debates in Global Economic and Social History', is **25 September 2022**. If you have questions or would like more information, please send an e-mail to the Office Manager: [posthumus@uu.nl](mailto:posthumus@uu.nl)

## Reimbursement of travel costs

If you live quite far from the location where the course meetings are held, please inquire at the Posthumus Institute about the possibility of receiving some reimbursement for your travel costs.



*Three Chinese merchants near a cart, (attributed to) Raimund baron von Stillfried und Ratenitz, c. 1850 - c. 1880, RP-F-F80090, Collection Rijksmuseum.*

# WHOM TO CONTACT ABOUT POSTHUMUS AT YOUR OWN INSTITUTION?

If you have any questions concerning the Posthumus Institute, you can always send an e-mail to [posthumus@uu.nl](mailto:posthumus@uu.nl).

If you prefer to have personal contact with a staff member you already know, you can contact one of the people below.

University of Groningen (Arts)

International Institute of Social History

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Eindhoven University of Technology

Wageningen University

University of Antwerp

University of Groningen (Economics)

University of Amsterdam

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Radboud University

Maastricht University

Ghent University

Fryske Akademy

Leiden University

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Utrecht University

Professor J. (Jutta) Bolt

Professor U.T. (Ulbe) Bosma

Professor J.E.M. (Petra) van Dam

Dr M. (Mila) Davids

Professor E. (Ewout) Frankema

Professor T. (Tim) Soens

Professor H.J. (Herman) de Jong

Dr D.W.A.G. (Daniëlle) van den Heuvel

Professor H.A.M. (Hein) Klemann

Professor J. (Jan) Kok

Professor V.C. (Vincent) Lagendijk

Professor T. (Thijs) Lambrecht

Professor A.J. (Hanno) Brand

Professor M.L.J.C. (Marlou) Schrover

Professor W. (Wouter) Ryckbosch

Dr C.J. (Christiaan) van Bochove

# NOTES





*Market vendors at Utrecht market, 1925, by unknown photographer, X 96365, Collection Het Utrechts Archief (Public Domain)*

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*"The Posthumus courses are a great opportunity to meet other talented students and learn from the best scholars in economic and social history. The broad topics enable you to make most of your own research."  
(Gijs Dreijer, Leiden University)*

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