

Thomas Pierrart



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Work

2017 – present

Phd in Literature (Faculty of Arts, KU Leuven/FWO)

October 2017 – October 2018: Starting grant provided by the University of Leuven

October 2018 – present: FWO fellowship

Project: *Imaginary Voyages in Narrative Worlds: From Transhistorical Theory to Contemporary Practice*

The project entails a genre study of the imaginary voyage (fictional voyages through space and time). Firstly, it aims to develop a theoretical framework (based on canonical works such as Daniel Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe' (1719) and Jules Verne's 'Vingt mille lieues sous les mers' (1870)), which maps both the transhistorical continuity and heterogenic variety of the genre. Secondly, the framework is tested and elaborated in an analysis of imaginary voyages in postwar and contemporary Dutch literature, including such novels as Nootboom's 'Het volgende verhaal' (1991) and De Coster's 'Vrije Val' (2002).

Research and Publications

Main research areas: Postwar and Contemporary Dutch prose
Genre theory; possible worlds theory (narratology)
Imaginary voyages; future narratives; utopia

International research experience:

Research presented at several international conferences, organized in (among others) Lausanne (Oct. 2018), Leuven (Aug. 2018), Antwerp (April 2018) and Liège (March 2019).

Guest lecturer at research seminar 'Toekomstbeelden in de literatuur' at the Open Universiteit (The Netherlands; May 2019)

Lecturer at Dutch Winter Course in South-Africa (Suider-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Neerlandistiek; at University of Pretoria; 1-7 July 2019)

Member of the editorial board of Tijdschrift voor Internationale Neerlandistiek (since 2019)

Research stay at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (Jan.-May 2017)

Participant of the Summer Course in Narrative Study (SINS) at Aarhus University (29 July – 3 Aug. 2018)

Top publications (Full list: <https://lirias.kuleuven.be/cv?u=U0109600>):

- Pierrart, Thomas. "Lezen over morgen. Nederlandstalige toekomstliteratuur door de ogen van de lezer", *Spiegel der Letteren* 58 (3), 2016, pp. 351–375. (A1)
- Pierrart, Thomas. "(On)conventioneel lezen. Oude genres, nieuwe romans, tijdloze frames", *Nederlandse Letterkunde* 22 (1), 2017, pp. 47-70. (A1)
- Pierrart, Thomas. "Een gasthuis vol narren. Van traditionele naar moderne hellevaart in twee achttiende-eeuwse droomsatiren", *TNTL* 134 (3), 2018, pp. 245-273. (A1)

Pierrart, Thomas. “‘What’s in a name?’ Robinsonades in de naoorlogse Nederlandse literatuur (1945-2019)”, *Jaarboek de achttiende eeuw*, 2019, pp. 67-81. (A1)

Other teaching assignments:

19th Century Dutch Literature; seminars on Dutch Modern & Postwar Fiction

Previous education

2016 – 2017

Master of Literary Studies

Interuniversity Research Master (Leuven et al.) – Faculty of Arts
Grade: maxima cum laude (92,29%)

2015 – 2016

Master of Linguistics and Literature: Dutch/Latin (Major: Dutch)

University of Leuven – Faculty of Arts
Grade: maxima cum laude (94%)

2012 – 2015

Bachelor of Linguistics and Literature: Dutch/Latin (Spec.: General Literature)

University of Leuven – Faculty of Arts
Grade: summa cum laude (86,6%)

Language Proficiency

(scale [\leq]: *basic communication skills – good command – excellent command – fluent – native language*)

Dutch

Native language

English

Fluent (listening, reading)

Excellent command (speaking, writing)

Note: Summer Course “English for Academic Purposes” (Utrecht University – Aug. 2017)

French

Excellent command (reading, listening)

Good command (writing, speaking)

German

Basic communication skills (listening, reading)

Latin

Excellent command (reading)

Other Skills

Communication skills (e.g. educational representative in faculty association for students)

Critical thinking skills, problem analysis skills

Creative, Leadership (motivating others) (e.g. head of youth movement)

References

Professor dr. Bart Vervaeck (bart.vervaeck@kuleuven.be)

University of Leuven (Department of Arts)

Modern (Dutch) Literature / Narratology

Professor dr. Jan Baetens (jan.baetens@kuleuven.be)

University of Leuven (Department of Arts)

Literary Theory / Cultural Studies