## HUMANITIES GRADUATE SCHOOL CONFERENCE 2025



## The Human Body in Culture, History, and Expression

## **UU Humanities Graduate School Conference 2025: Programme**

## **Conference – Thursday 22 May 2025**

Location: Academiegebouw, Domplein 29, 3512 JE Utrecht

\*All speakers are (R)MA students, recent alumni or PhD candidates from the Humanities Graduate School at Utrecht University\*

Time	Programme	Room
9.00-9.30	Conference registration opens	Zaal 1636
	Coffee & Tea	
9.30-10.30	Keynote	Aula
	Dr. Willemijn Ruberg - Historicizing the right to bodily	
	autonomy	
	Chair: Folkert de Vries	
10.30-10.40	Room change	
10.40-11.25	Parallel Sessions 1	
	Becoming Posthuman Bodies	Belle van
	Chair: Sorcha Ní Bhraonáin	Zuylenzaal
	Jonathan Kirn - Performing More-than-Human	
	Bodies. Blurring Boundaries in BVDS' Song of	
	Songs.	
	<ul> <li>Nienke Draaisma - Don't Be Silent About the Goosebumps: A New Literary Materialist Reading</li> </ul>	
	of The Song of the Stork (2022) and Dromedary	
	(2026)	

	<ul> <li>Biancamaria Gotti - Becoming Immortal by Becoming Posthuman: Transhumanism, Mindcloning, and the Misconception of the Self Bodies in Protest</li> <li>Chair: Yowali Kabamba</li> <li>Negar Asgharifard - The female biopolitical body: gendered state violence during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests in Iran</li> <li>Kimberly Lee - Embodied Resistance: The Human Body and Protest Art in Hong Kong's Street Movements</li> <li>Yasaman Bathaee - Hair, Materiality, and</li> </ul>	Kanunnikenzaal
11.25-11.45	Resistance in the Work of Nasim Moghadam  Coffee break	Zaal 1636
11.45-12.30	Parallel Sessions 2	
	Disability and sense-making	Belle van
	Chair: August Christensen	Zuylenzaal
	<ul> <li>Yvonne Marinus - Exploring the plural 'frame of body': how Anne Boyer's <i>The Undying</i> (2019) employs sensory diction to connect bodily discomfort to sense making</li> <li>Lara Morello - The relevance of being visible. Exploring the representation of the body through the audio description of the Italian Tv series <i>Prisma</i> (2022)</li> <li>Larisa van Rijn - Supercybercrip: cyborgism and disability in <i>Cyberpunk 2077</i></li> </ul>	
	Imperial and Colonial Bodies	Kanunnikenzaal
	Chair: Dorian Hagedoorn	
	<ul> <li>Ruth Bryant - Spoils of Whales: Commodifying Nature in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Arctic Genre Scenes</li> <li>Bryony Harris - Disease control and bodily autonomy in Mehmed Ali's Egypt (1831-1843)</li> <li>Hilary Spiteri - Between Empire and Tradition: The Body as a Site of Artistic Practice in Malta's Colonial Era</li> </ul>	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	Zaal 1636

13.30-14.15	Parallel Sessions 3	
	Gender Performativity	Belle van
	Chair: Yowali Kabamba	Zuylenzaal
	<ul> <li>Ayantika Majumdar - Trans performance art and the politics of bodily non-normativity</li> <li>Maaike Weitering - Something Off My Chest:         Queer Sensibilities of Clothing, Gender, and the Body</li> <li>Brianah Lee, Giulia Speca, and Celis Tittse - The body in art and performance, Renaissance Art, Visual AI, Gender</li> <li>Illness, Loss and the Body</li> </ul>	
	Chair: Sorcha Ní Bhraonáin	Kanunnikenzaal
	<ul> <li>Giada Quaranta - Walking Through a Landscape of Loss: The Body and Grief in Maria Ardizzi's Work</li> <li>Ohad Ben Shimon - A Living Community:         Theorizing Immunity from the Autoimmune     </li> <li>Jula Gommeren - White Wedding: Marrying the conventional symbolisms of lace to the 2000s beauty standards for the female body</li> </ul>	
14.15-14.25	Room change	
14.25-15.25	Parallel Sessions 4	
	Bodily Autonomy and Labour Chair: Camila Malig	Belle van Zuylenzaal
	<ul> <li>Viola Ruggieri - Embodied Knowledge and Affect in Childbirth: Birth Justice to Reclaim Bodily Autonomy</li> <li>Christina Chiotaki - Workers or Victims? Anti-Trafficking Campaigns as the Moral gatekeepers of Feminised Labour</li> <li>Suzie Toumeh - The Body in Documentaries of Displacement: For Sama and The Cave</li> <li>Stepan Lastuvka - Framing social reproduction under the neoliberal platform economy: outsourced content moderation in the discursive context of Daniel Motaung's case</li> </ul>	

	Constructing Bodies across Media	Kanunnikenzaal
	Chair: Dorian Hagedoorn	
	<ul> <li>Amber Helmes - It's (Not) Just You; The Lonely Female Body in Contemporary Literary Fiction</li> <li>Ariel Rabkin-Meyer - Klingon Terror, Human Trauma: Embodied Islamophobia in Star Trek: Discovery</li> <li>Rudy Henke Brands - How Can I Glow Up? The</li> </ul>	
	Feminine Body as a Project on TikTok and the Politics of Individualized Preoccupation  Bo Davids - Blood, Milk and Tears: The	
	Construction of the Female Body in the hagiographical writing of James of Vitry and Thomas of Cantimpré	
15.25-15.40	Coffee break	Zaal 1636
15.40-16.25	Parallel Sessions 5	
	Sites of Expression and Communication	Belle van
	Chair: Iris Krips	Zuylenzaal
	<ul> <li>Roos Ledeboer - Do Multimodal Cues         Compensate for Manual Gesture Restrictions in         Infant-Directed Communication?</li> <li>Mireille E. Cornelis - The Spontaneous Stance:         Karel Appel and the Act of Painting</li> <li>Harriet Boateng Aduako - Empowered Identities:         The Role of Priestess Okomfo Akosua Atuobua in         Kwahu Spirituality</li> </ul>	
	Sex and Sexuality	
	Chair: Camila Malig	Kanunnikenzaal
	<ul> <li>Christl de Kloe - 'Unlock Your Orgasm' Sexual pleasure and orgasm in femtech</li> <li>Priyanka Jha - Shame On You, But Who's Under You? or On How to Have An Erotic Encounter With Shame</li> <li>Elle Zwinkels - Poor, Unfortunate Females!</li> </ul>	
	Interrogating through Androphonia	
16.25-16.35	Room change	
16.35-18:00	Closing remarks & Borrel	Zaal 1636