

ASH-Workshop: Republican Experiences in the Enlightenment

Date and Time

Friday 1 December 2017, 10.00-17.00

Venue

Vondelzaal, University Library, University of Amsterdam

Description

The considerable variety of republican institutions and ideas that existed in the eighteenth century has been widely acknowledged in the historiography, but much remains unknown about the ways in which republicans from this era assessed their place in a changing world. While their ideas and institutions stand in a long tradition that dates back to Antiquity, the Enlightenment also gave rise to new ways of organizing and conceptualizing society. The proposed workshop focuses on contemporary approaches to the challenges that republics faced in the eighteenth century as a result. It is of particular interest how this republican experience of a changed present led authors to re-evaluate their relationship to both the past and the future. They were confronted with a number of questions, such as: what had exactly changed? How to evaluate that change and its consequences? How to deal with these altered circumstances and bring about a better future? While these questions were shared by eighteenth-century republicans, their reactions depended to a large extent on their particular context. In order to deepen our understanding of the variety of republican experiences in the Enlightenment, the workshop will bring together two research communities that study rather different republican contexts: the commercial experience of the United Provinces of the Netherlands and agrarian republics such as the Swiss Confederacy.

Organizers

Jan Rotmans (j.rotmans@uva.nl) / Lina Weber (l.weber@uva.nl)

Program

10.00-10.30	Welcome & introduction by the organizers
10.30-11.00	Eleá de la Porte (UvA): Commerce and civilization. The Dutch republic in the enlightened narrative
11.00-11.30	Jan Rotmans (UvA): Commerce, civilization and moral corruption. Conceptual tension in Dutch Enlightenment thought
11.30-11.45	Break
11-45-12.15	Lina Weber (UvA): A post-commercial threat. The rentier in the Dutch Enlightenment
12.15-12.45	Mathijs Boom (UvA): The history of the earth and the history of society. Changing perspectives in the late Enlightenment
12.45-13.45	Lunch
13.45-14.45	Béla Kapossy (Lausanne): Vattel and the spirit of legislation
14.45-15.15	Graham Clure (Lausanne): The political economy of the general will. Rousseau and the problem of Poland in Enlightenment political thought
15.15-15.30	Break
15.30-16.00	Auguste Bertholet (Lausanne): Between agrarianism and urban mass production. Cottage industry in eighteenth-century Vaud
16.00-16.30	Radoslaw Szymanski (Lausanne): The counts Mniszech and their European project of Polish reform
16.30-17.00	Concluding remarks by Ida Nijenhuis (Huygens ING) and Wyger Velema (UvA)
17.00-19.00	Drinks (location t.b.a.)
19.00	Dinner (location t.b.a.)

Practical Information

Contact Information

Jan Rotmans (06-15366561) / Lina Weber (06-10485901)

Hotel

Hotel Residence Le Coin

Nieuwe Doelenstraat 5, 1012 CP Amsterdam

Route to the Hotel

From the airport, trains run every 10 minutes from platforms 1 and 2 to Amsterdam Centraal and the trip takes approximately 15 minutes.

From Amsterdam Centraal Station, you can either walk to the hotel (approximately 20 minutes) or take tram lines 9, 16, 24. You have to exit the tram at the stop Muntplein. Tickets can be bought either at the train station or from the conductor (a one hour ticket costs €2,90).

Venue Symposium

Vondelzaal, University Library, University of Amsterdam

Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam

Route from Le Coin to the University Library

Walk either via Rokin and Olieslagerssteeg/Heiligeweg (blue dots) or via the Singel (grey line).

Please consult the map on the next page.

