

**Mari Smits**

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Male

Born on 9 September 1961 in Helmond (NL)

**Summary**

I want to bring the past back to life through research and by providing access to historical sources. I do this by writing books, articles and blogs and giving lectures, not only for an academic, but also to a broader audience. Every past has a story and I am passionate to tell that story. For that I'm consulting archives, libraries and the internet. I also make resources available to others, so that they can write their own history.

I am a specialist on contemporary history, with attention directed towards migration (especially to South America), Dutch agricultural history and international relations (especially, development cooperation and European integration). My interest lies mainly at the interface of social and political history. I can work independently, but also as part of a team.

I am also concerned with exploring new media to tell the story to new audiences. I'm curious, accurate, have a broad knowledge and I am committed to transfer and communication. If you are looking for someone who can help you to tell the story of your company or organization, please contact me.

**Professional Experience**

- 2016-present Independent historian and researcher.
- 2011-2015 Researcher at Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands (KNAW), The Hague. Research projects: The Netherlands and European Integration, 1950-1986 and Dutch Constitutional Commissions, 1883-1983.
- 2001-2011 Researcher at the Institute for Netherlands History, The Hague. Research on Dutch Development Policy, 1949-1989 and The Netherlands and European Integration, 1950-1986.
- 1997-1999 Researcher at Sociaal Historisch Centrum voor Flevoland. Research on Proponents and Opponents of the Zuider Zee Works, 1886-1986.
- 1991-1997 Junior Researcher at the Catholic Documentation Center of the Radboud University (KDC). Research on the Dutch Roman Catholic Farmers- and Gardeners Union (KNBTB) and the Archdiocesan Roman Catholic Farmers- and Gardeners Union (ABTB).
- 1988-1989 Junior Researcher in Holambra, Brazil. Research on Dutch Migrant Settlement in Brazil.

**Projects and other activities**

- 2015-present Contributor at Historiek.net (history website)
- 2015-present Regional Board member Royal Dutch Walking Association.
- 2014-present Advisor Tulipana programme, in cooperation with Centre for Global Heritage and Development, Leiden University. Conserving and digitization cultural heritage of Dutch migrants in Brazil.
- 2012 Advisor National Archives of the Netherlands concerning the realization of a research report on Dutch Group Settlement in Brazil, 1822-1992.

2010-2016	Preparing a new book on Holambra, a Dutch community in Brazil.
2002-2005	Advisor National Archives of the Netherlands on selection and stocktaking of archives of agricultural institutions.
1991-1997	Editor of the <i>Noordbrabants Historisch Nieuwsblad</i> .

### Education

2015	Course Project Management.
2013	Post-academic Course 'Digital Historical Research', organized by Huygens ING and NIOD.
1996	Ph.D. at the Radboud University Nijmegen. Title: 'Boeren met beleid. Honderd jaar Katholieke Nederlandse Boeren- en Tuindersbond, 1896-1996'.
1979-1987	BA/MA-study History at Radboud University Nijmegen. Specialisations: contemporary history. Courses on European Integration, Second World War and Missionary activities in Africa in the 19th Century. Theses on Dutch media policy (1947-1967) and Dutch overseas migration (1945-1972).
1973-1979	Secondary school at Peelland College Deurne (The Netherlands).

### Languages

Dutch	Mother Language
English	Fluent
German	Good
French	Basic
Portuguese	Basic

### Reference

Marc Dierikx, senior researcher at Huygens ING (+31)70 3156449.  
Henk Wals, director of IISH (+31)20-6685866

### Publications

- *Holambra. Os primeiros anos difíceis de um pedacinho da Holanda no Brasil* (e-book; published in 2016).
- *Holambra. De moeizame beginjaren van een stukje Nederland in Brazilië* (Nijmegen: Valkhof Pers 2016).
- 'Real Allies? The Netherlands and Germany on qualified majority voting in the European Communities, 1957-1986' (for submission to an international journal).
- Digital Source Publication 'The Netherlands and European integration, 1950-1986' (2014) <http://resources.huygens.knaw.nl/europeseintegratie>
- Digitale Edition Source Publication Dutch Development Cooperation, 1949-1989. (2013) <http://resources.huygens.knaw.nl/ontwikkelingssamenwerking>
- With Marc Dierikx, Loes van Suijlekom, Frédéric Clavert, Elena Danescu and Marco Gabellini, *Common Fate, Common Future. A Documentary History of Monetary and Financial Cooperation in Europe, 1947-1974* (Den Haag: Huygens ING, 2012).
- "'Ik vertrek": Some Trends in Recent Emigration from the Netherlands' in: J.E. Nyenhuis, S.M. Sinke and R.P. Swierenga (ed.), *Across Borders. Dutch Migration to North America and Australia* (Holland, Michigan: Van Raalte Press, 2010), pp. 245-251.
- 'Main Topics of Dutch Development Policy, 1949-1989' in; Marc Dierikx (ed.), *Diplomacy and Development. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Editors of Diplomatic Documents* (Den Haag: ING, 2010), pp. 49-56.
- "'Te veel brandweerman en te weinig architect". Pierre Lardinois, lid van de Europese Commissie (1973-1977)' in: G. Voerman, B. van den Braak en C. van Baalen (red.), *De Nederlandse eurocommissarissen* (Amsterdam: Boom 2010), 145-174.

- Met L.J. van Damme (red.), *Voor de ontwikkeling van de Derde Wereld. Politici en ambtenaren over de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking 1949-1989* (Amsterdam: Boom 2009).
- 'Missie in een nieuwe jas? De plaats van particuliere ontwikkelingsorganisaties in de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking' in: *Transparant, Tijdschrift van de Vereniging van Christen-Historici* 20 (2009), no. 4, 14-19.
- 'Anthonie Colijn (1870-1932). Boer, boerenvoorman, burgemeester' in: P.E. Werkman en R.E. van der Woude (red.), *Wie in de politiek gaat, is weg? Protestantse politici en de christelijk-sociale beweging* (Hilversum: Verloren 2009), 151-176.
- 'Non-governmental organisations in the Netherlands. From private funding to governmental support' in: H. Pharo and M. Pohle-Fraser (eds.), *The Aid Rush. Aid Regimes in Northern Europe during the Cold War*, Vol. 1 (Oslo: Unipub, 2008), pp. 315-332.
- With R.E. van der Woude, "'Door machtige organisatie alleen kunnen wij onze stem doen gelden". Land- en tuinbouworganisaties in de Noordoostpolder, 1945-1995' in: W. den Boer e.a. (red.), *'Een machtig arbeidsveld'. De opbouw van het kerkelijk leven in de Noordoostpolder* (Gouda: Vereniging van Nederlandse Kerkgeschiedenis, 2008), pp. 185-207.
- With R.E. van der Woude, "'Op nieuw land een nieuwe maatschappij". Verzuiling bij de landbouworganisaties in Flevoland 1942-1995' in: *Geïnspireerde organisaties. Cahier over de geschiedenis van de christelijk-sociale beweging*, no. 7 (2007), pp. 45-69.
- 'Welbegrepen eigenbelang of beginsel? Katholieke boerenbonden en hun coöperaties' in: *Niet voor het gewin. Cahier over de geschiedenis van de christelijk-sociale beweging*, no. 6 (2005), pp. 53-67.
- "'Geef ons nu maar subsidie en bemoei je er verder niet mee". Overheidssubsidie voor ontwikkelingsactiviteiten van de missie' in: *Trajecta* 13 (2004), pp. 147-162. Tevens verschenen in: Th. Clemens, P. Klep en L. Winkeler (red.) *Moeizame moderniteit. Katholieke cultuur in transitie. Opstellen voor Jan Roes (1939-2003)* (Nijmegen: Valkhof Pers, 2003), pp. 147-162.
- With M.L.J. Dierikx e.a.: *Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking. Bronnenuitgave*, Deel 2: 1964-1967 (Den Haag 2003); Deel 3: 1967-1973 (Den Haag 2005); Deel 4: 1973-1977: (Den Haag 2005); Deel 5: 1977-1982 (Den Haag 2008); Deel 6: 1982-1989 (Den Haag 2009).  
[bronnenpublicatie]
- 'Petrus Josephus Lardinois (1924-1987)', 'Addeke Hendrik Boerma (1912-1992)', en 'Herman Derk Louwes (1893-1960)' in: *Biografisch Woordenboek van Nederland*, deel 6 (Den Haag 2008).
- 'Farmers under pressure. Recent emigration of Dutch farmers' in: *Bol og By. Landbohistorisk Tidsskrift* (Denemarken) (2002), nr. 1, p. 65-74.
- 'Het boerenbedrijf in de verdrukking. Oorsprong en omvang van de recente emigratiebeweging onder Nederlandse boeren' in: *Spil* (2002), nr. 181-182, p. 15-18.
- Met J.W. Elferink: 'Post-War Migration from the Netherlands' in: J. Klatter-Folmer, *Dutch Overseas. Studies in maintenance and loss of Dutch as an immigrant language* (Tilburg: Tilburg University Press, 1997), pp. 21-31.
- *Een aardse geschiedenis. De ABTB in dienst van boeren en tuinders, 1917-1997* (Nijmegen: Valkhof Pers, 1997), 338 p. ISBN 90-5625-018-3
- *Boeren met beleid. Honderd jaar Katholieke Nederlandse Boeren- en Tuindersbond, 1896-1996* (Nijmegen: Valkhof Pers, 1996), 327 p. ISBN 90-5625-004-3. Ook verschenen als proefschrift KU Nijmegen.
- 'God, huisgezin en eigendom, De transformatie van de Nederlandsche Boerenbond van een christelijke naar een katholieke organisatie (1896-1920)', in: *Trajecta* 3(1994), nr. 3, p. 233-251. "'Door federatieve aaneensluiting". Ontstaan en ontwikkeling van de Nederlandsche Boerenbond gedurende de eerste vijfen-twintig jaren, 1896-1921' in: *Jaarboek Katholiek Documentatie Centrum* 22 (1992), p. 7-29.
- *Holambra. Geschiedenis van een Nederlandse toekomstdroom in de Braziliaanse werkelijkheid 1948-1988* (Nijmegen: Katholiek Documentatie Centrum, 1990), 211 p. ISBN 90-70504-32-4

- *Met kompas emigreren. Katholieken en het vraagstuk van de emigratie in Nederland (1946-1972)*, (Nijmegen/'s-Gravenhage: Katholiek Documentatie Centrum, Katholieke Emigratie Centrale, 1989), 159 p. ISBN 90-70504-28-6
- Editor of: *Illustere historici. Leven, werk en invloed van toonaangevende geschiedschrijvers* (Nijmegen: Stichting Annales Noviomagenses, 1988).
- Book reviews in *Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden (BMGN)* and *Agricultural History*.
- Online publications at [www.historiek.net](http://www.historiek.net).

### Papers

- 'Geen Paradijs. De Nederlandse emigratie naar Zuid-Amerika, 1858-1940', lecture during Open Monumentendag, organized by Genootschap Amstelodanum, 13 september 2014 in Amsterdam.
- 'Een hel voor emigranten. De Zeeuwse emigratie naar Zuid-Amerika vóór 1940', Lecture on the celebration of 200 years Province of Zeeland, 18 juli 2014 in Middelburg.
- 'Margin notes, initials, pencils and paper. The making of Dutch foreign policy through writing comments on policy papers', lecture during the 9th conference of the European Society for Textual Scholarship on 23 november 2012 at the Trippenhuus in Amsterdam.
- 'Main Topics of Dutch Development Policy, 1949-1989', lecture during the 10th International Congress of Editors of Diplomatic Documents, 16 oktober 2009 in The Hague.
- 'Stukjes Nederland in Brazilië. 150 jaar groepsmigratie tussen integratie en identiteit', lecture during symposium of the Christelijke Emigratie Centrale, 24 april 2009 in Utrecht.
- 'Een brug tussen Noord en Zuid. Nederland als gidsland in de internationale ontwikkelingssamenwerking, 1950-1985', lecture during symposium of the Utrechtse Historische Studenten Kring, 9 mei 2007 in Utrecht.
- 'Non-governmental organizations in the Netherlands: from private funding to governmental support, paper submitted to a confence on the history of international development cooperation, Kopenhagen, 28 en 29 april 2006.
- 'Farmers' land into hot water. Recent migration of Dutch Farmers'', paper submitted to a conference on migration in Tisvildeleje (Denmark), 20 en 21 september 2001.

Unpublished papers can be found at [www.marismits.nl](http://www.marismits.nl) in the menu 'lezingen'. A complete overview of my publications (including book reviews and online publications) can be found in the menu 'publicaties'.