

# Lezing | Writing History in the Anthropocene

**Activiteit van Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam****Datum:** donderdag 25 april 2024 om 17:00 uur**Locatie:** SPUI25, Spui 25-27, Amsterdam / Online**Informatie:** Voertaal: Engels; aanmelden via de [website van SPUI25](#)**Toegang:** De toegang is gratis

Is geschiedenis nog relevant nu de versnelde klimaatverandering de wereld waarin we leven in rap tempo verandert? Historicus Sandra Maß (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) verkent in haar lezing in SPUI25 in Amsterdam de verschillende lagen van deze prangende vraag en roept op tot een nieuw soort geschiedschrijving. Krijn Thijs (DIA) geeft commentaar, Peter van Dam (UvA) modereert de bijeenkomst.

Is history still relevant as accelerating climate change is rapidly transforming the world we live in? In her lecture, Sandra Maß explores the different layers of this pressing question and calls for a new type of historiography.

The controversial debate about the Anthropocene is also affecting the historical sciences. Demands for new methods, new sources and new narratives are dominating the field. Questions about the significance of nature, the expansion of time and the role of the human actor touch the core of history's disciplinary self-understanding. Sandra Maß argues that historiography has to change if historians want to retain relevant interpretative power under the conditions of accelerating climate change. They will have to get dirty.

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About the speakers

[Sandra Maß](#) is Professor of Transnational History of the 19th Century at the Ruhr University Bochum (Germany). Her recent research projects deal with global family

history in the 19th Century and with the Anthropocene.

[Krijn Thijs](#) is a historian, affiliated with the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam (DIA). He has studied History at the VU University in Amsterdam. Thereafter he wrote a thesis at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung in Potsdam about the political usage of Berlin's city history in The Third Reich, GDR and West-Berlin. Since 2009 he works at the DIA, where he assists the DAAD-Graduiertenkolleg, organises workshops and lectures. Furthermore, he is a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam (History, German Studies).

[Peter van Dam](#) (moderator) is professor of Dutch history at the University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on the history of civic initiative and activism as well as the history of historiography. His current research revolves around the question how people have tried to make the world more sustainable: Which problems did they identify? And how have they translated their hopes and fears into initiatives to shape their societies?

*Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam in cooperation with the [Faculty of Humanities \(UvA\)](#)*

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