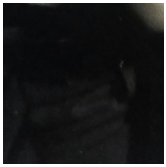


DEEP Day

Thursday 19 June 2025
13:00 – 16:30




Constructing Knowledges of the Child: On the Historiography of Psychology and Education



About the programme

What happens when the study of children becomes fragmented into disciplines that rarely speak to each other? Developmental psychology, child psychiatry, education, pedagogy, youth care, family studies, and the history of childhood each bring their own questions, assumptions, and methods. But do they still share a common object of study?

As Thomas Gieryn (1983) reminds us, "'Science' is no single thing: its boundaries are drawn and redrawn in flexible, historically changing and sometimes ambiguous ways" (p. 781). We propose this applies equally to histories. This event therefore invites scholars working in the Dutch context to reflect on the boundaries and boundary-work in the history of psychology and education, as well as on the shifting landscape of expertise in the studies of children, childhood, development, pedagogy, and schools.

This afternoon is organized by DEEP: the Dutch Expertise Centre for Theory & History of Education and Psychology. Based at the University of Groningen, DEEP brings together the faculty's two internationally-renowned expert groups around shared themes. Last year, DEEP Day focused on the importance of archives that preserve and make accessible the heritage of Dutch psychology, pedagogy, and educational sciences. This year, our focus is on current research seen through historical and theoretical lenses.

This year's DEEP Day brings together historians, psychologists, and educational researchers to reflect on the shifting boundaries of childhood studies. We explore how disciplinary divisions have shaped our understanding of children and education, and how historical perspectives can offer new insights into the present landscape of our shared expertise.

university of groningen

University of Groningen, Grote Rozenstraat 31, Bouman Building, Gadourekzaal (B.126)

DEEP Day Programme

13:00 Welcome to DEEP Day

13:05 Opening Remarks
Prof. dr. Casper Albers
Dean of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences

13:10 Keynote Lecture
Prof. dr. Willem Koops
Emeritus Professor of Developmental Psychology, Utrecht University
Against Proliferation: On the Cultural-Historical Foundations of Child Studies

14:00 Coffee Break

14:15 PhD Research Presentation
Bente Ooms
PhD Candidate, University of Groningen

14:25 Keynote Lecture
Prof. dr. Gemma Blok
Professor of the History of Psychiatry, Utrecht University, and Professor of Mental Health and Culture, Open University
Smoking, Drinking, and Talking About Life: Personal Narratives of Drug Use in Dutch Youth Centres, 1965–1985

15:15 Coffee Break

15:25 Research Presentation
Dr. Giuseppe Guastamacchia
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Naples "Frederico II"
Mechanical Models, Mental Magnitudes and the Rise of Psychophysics in 19th Century Germany

15:50 Round Table Discussion
Histories in Fragments: What Holds (the historiography of) Child and Youth Studies Together?

16:30 Drinks and Bites