

# Annual Report 2016



international institute  
of social history



## Mission statement

Work and labour relations deeply influence how we live. The International Institute of Social History (IISH) examines how these relations develop globally over time. To conduct this historical research and support other researchers, we collect archives and data from all over the world. Established in 1935, the IISH is one of the world's leading research institutes on social history.



European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC)

## Summary

The IISH conducts historical research on labour relations involving social and economic inequality and their consequences. In 2016 the importance of such research was more manifest than ever. In the West inequality was growing noticeably. Two of the most important events during the year under review – Brexit and the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States – attest to this pressure.

Society needs answers. Long-term analyses, as in the IISH research programme *Global Labour History*, contribute toward this end. For this type of research social-historical sources and data are indispensable, as well as sophisticated digital techniques to find and explore them. In this respect, the collection of the IISH is unequalled.

In the year 2016, the *raison d'être* of the IISH is crystal clear. Our challenge is to ensure the most meaningful expression possible. Aside from research quality or collection excellence, maximizing our impact on social debate and policy decisions have become key to our mission. For the IISH, there is a world to win in terms of societal impact.

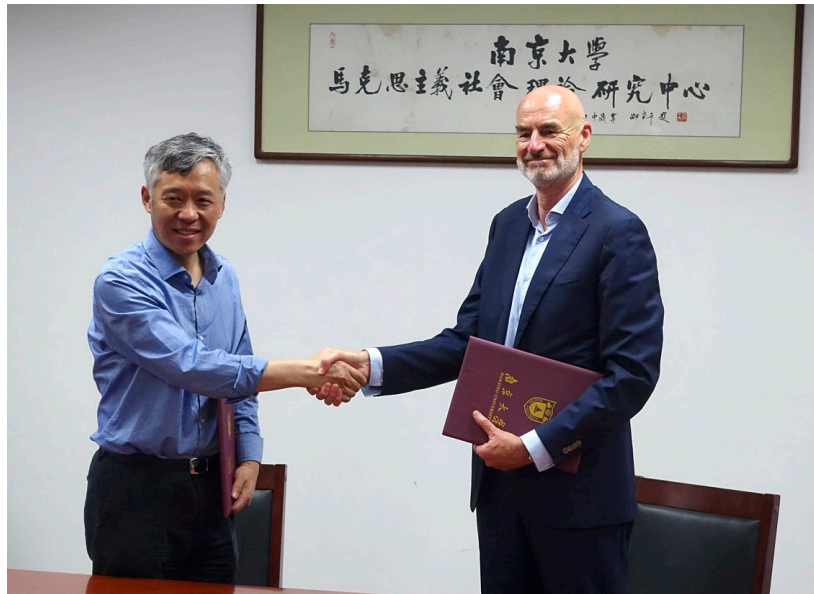
In 2016 we forged ahead in realizing the strategic objectives we set in 2012. The Research Department is very productive and publishes almost exclusively with acclaimed international journals and publishers. In 2016 we once again obtained several grants.

In the Collections Department, following the round of budget cuts in 2013, all energies were dedicated to clearing backlogs and improving the digital infrastructure, despite the modest resources available. In 2016 we achieved a breakthrough: the KNAW allocated 2.6 million euros toward transitioning to a digital setting and eliminating backlogs in the years ahead. This relieves a serious concern.

Organizational progress was also substantial. Sophisticated, sound digital infrastructure is indispensable for an institute such as the IISH. Realizing

## Outreach

	2015	2016
Visitors to website	312,984	295,091
Facebook page likes	2,912	4,312
Followers on Twitter	2,225	2,694
Guided tours	49	42
Subscriptions to newsletter	2,003	2,449
Questions answered	2,923	3,266



Collaboration agreement between IISH and the University of Nanjing.

and maintaining it, however, requires more organizational scale than the IISH is able to provide. The same holds true for developing new digital research methods and techniques. State-of-the-art operations moreover require more professional quality and risk management than in the past. With this in mind, the IISH has opted for extensive collaboration with two other KNAW institutes: the Huygens ING and the Meertens Institute.

In 2016 a joint operations desk was set up under the aegis of a director of operations responsible for three institutes. In 2017 IT departments will be merged and a joint Digital Humanities group will be established. The three institutes will operate under the name of KNAW Humanities Cluster. The combined organization will be run by a management team chaired by the general director of the IISH.

## Research

The IISH research group was highly prolific again in 2016. In addition to 30 articles in peer reviewed A-rated journals and 33 chapters in books, the research group comprising ca. 10 ftes of permanent researchers produced 6 monographs and 7 edited volumes in the academic category. The volume edited by Jürgen Kocka and Marcel van der Linden *Capitalism. The Reemergence of a Historical Concept* is expected to achieve a major impact, as is the one by Karin Hofmeester (ed.) et al., *Luxury in Global Perspective: Objects and Practices, 1600 - 2000* (Cambridge, 2016).

Research Director Leo Lucassen was appointed Adjunct Professor at Aalborg University in Denmark. The title of adjunct professor in Denmark is given to professors who, thanks to special merit and expertise, can contribute to the quality of a research group.

The research group also scored well again in earning research grant awards. IISH postdoc Pepijn Brandon received a Veni grant from NWO for his project *Naval shipyards: Laboratories of capitalism*. Ulbe Bosma and Matthias van Rossum, together with two fellow scholars from Leiden University,

## Academic Advisory Board members IISH

Prof. Dr. Jan Luiten van Zanden (chairman)

Kurt de Belder MA

Prof. Dr. Ewout Frankema

Prof. Dr. Frank van Harmelen

Drs. Maria Heijne

Prof. Dr. Pál Nyiri

Drs. Johan Oomen

Prof. Dr. Hilde de Weerd

Prof. Dr. Anne Winter

were awarded a grant in the nwoFree Competition for their study Resilient diversity: The governance of racial and religious plurality in the Dutch empire, 1600-1800. Leo Lucassen succeeded in the first round of awards from the KNAW Research Fund: together with Helga de Valk from the NIDI, he will head up research bearing the title: Het multiculturele drama in perspectief: 40 jaar levenslopen van migranten en niet-migranten in Nederland [Multicultural drama in perspective: 40 years of life cycles of migrants and non-migrants in the Netherlands].

The IISH journal the International Review of Social History (published by Cambridge University Press) rose in the ranking of the authoritative Journal Citation Reports® from 35th to 17th place (out of 87), with an impact factor of 0.511, one of the highest ever attained by the IISH.

In late March, in Valencia the European Social Science History Conference was held. As the world's largest conference on social history, it is organized every two years by the IISH. In Valencia over 1,800 participants were present.

In 2016 the IISH signed two collaboration agreements with two large Chinese universities: Nanjing University and Guangxi Normal University. Collaborations were previously set up with the East China Normal University, Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh in the United States and the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Europe.

## Collections and social value

In 2016 the archives acquired spanned 237 meters (last year 125), and 409 meters were processed (last year 345). For the third consecutive year, the backlog was reduced. There were 6.417 visits to the reading room, down from the previous year, when we registered a record number of 7,022 visitors. The IISH signed a contract with the foundation Pictoright, so that the hundreds of thousands of digital images at the Institute, which had to be removed due to copyright issues in 2015, may be posted online again.



**Dennie Oude Nijhuis, The Future of Labour, public program at Pakhuis De Zwijger**



**IISH interview with Wim Kok, (left) former chair of the dutch union and former Prime Minister.**

## Research capacity

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Researcher	7.8	7.2	7.8	10.5	9.8
Postdoc	1.6	1.4	3.2	4.3	5.1
PHD	3.4	4.4	6.0	4.2	2.9
Guest Researcher	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2
Fellow*	1.6	2.2	3.0	3.6	3.4
Other Academic Staff	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.8
	<b>17.1</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24.2</b>

\*Guest researcher and Fellow = 0.2 fte RC per person

\*\*Other Academic Staff = 0.1 RC per person

Museums were granted 127 standing loans, the largest to the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, the Musée d'Histoire Contemporaine in Paris and museums in Barcelona, Berlin and Budapest. One special collection development project was a series of eight interviews with former Prime Minister Wim Kok about his period chairing the FNV, the largest Dutch trade union confederation.

The social value of the IISH also manifested in new alliances with Spui25 and Pakhuis De Zwijger. We organized meetings for the public about work and labour relations at both sites. Research Director Leo Lucassen continued to appear frequently in the media, where he highlighted the latest news in historical and current research on migration and refugees. He teamed up with Nijmegen Professor Henk van Houtum on the book for general readers *Voorbij Fort Europa: een nieuwe visie op migratie* (Amsterdam, Atlas/Contact 2016). Another book for general readers that was well received was Sjaak van der Velden's *Loonstrijd en loonontwikkeling in Nederland. Moet de vakbeweging zich bezinnen op het gevolgde beleid?* (Amsterdam 2016).

In 2016 we started preparing to absorb part of the collection of the Meertens Institute. Other news was that the Press Museum will be leaving the IISH in 2017 to reopen at The Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision in Hilversum. The collection belonging to the museum will continue to be kept at the IISH.

## Management

The year under review in this report on 2016 was dedicated mainly to the launch of the KNAW Humanities Cluster. On 1 October 2016 the IISH formed an organizational collaborative network with the Huygens ING and the Meertens Institute, comprising a single shared operations desk. Yildiz van den Akker was appointed director of operations for the combination. IISH General Director Henk Wals was elected by his fellow directors to chair the KNAW HuC management team.

## Research allocation and publications

Publication type	Publication category	Author > Role	Peer-reviewed	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Contribution to journal - Article	Academic	Author	Not peer-reviewed	11	4	7	2	4	28
			Peer-reviewed	30	23	49	37	30	169
		Editor	Peer-reviewed					1	1
		Contributor	Peer-reviewed					1	1
	Professional	Author	-	34	22	34	35	39	164
	General	Author	-	7	47	26	27	15	122
Contribution to journal - Special issue (editorship)	Academic	Author	-			1	1		2
		Editor	-			5		2	7
		Guest Editor	-			1			1
Contribution to Book/Report types - Chapter	Academic	Autor	Not peer-reviewed	63	34	5	7	4	113
			Peer-reviewed	1	1	38	11	27	78
		Translator	Not peer-reviewed			1			1
	Professional	Author	-		1	22	3	2	28
	General	Author	-				1		1
Book/Report types - Book	Academic	Author	Not peer-reviewed	6	3	3	1		13
			Peer-reviewed			2	6	7	15
		Editor	Not peer-reviewed	14	4	2			20
			Peer-reviewed			4	10	6	20
	Professional	Author	-	3		2	3	3	11
		Editor	-	1		1			2
	General	Author	-			1		2	3
	Types of Thesis - PhD thesis	Academic	Author	-	1		2	1	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>171</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>805</b>

Academic collections & services	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015	2015	2016
				Staff	Fellow	Total	
Distribution of collection duties in ftes	31.1	37.2	24.9	25.21		25.21	25.08
- for collection development	10.2	6.1	7.5	6.1		6.1	8.15
- for cataloguing	11.9	23	6.5	8.11		8.11	8.09
- for services	9.0	8.1	10.9	11		11	9.56
<b>Acquisitions</b>							
Accruals to collections in meters (especially archives, estates, documentation)	404	314	249			125	237
Accruals to collections in items (especially books, audiovisual materials)	unknown	unknown	15,908			14,801	95,513
<b>Cataloguing</b>							
Processed collections in meters (archives, estates, documentation)	528	171	755			345	339
Processed collections in items (books, periodicals, audiovisual)	11,135	61,206	18,580			307,292	95,513
<b>Services</b>							
Collection units consulted	20,140	23,556	20,659			21,581	20,555
- archive units consulted	8,380	8,758	8,290			7,595	7,709
Visits to reading room	5,261	5,688	6,401			7,094	6,417
Number of visitors			1,180			1,094	
- visitors from abroad	?	345	333			331	127
Number of items issued on standing loan for exhibitions			117			506	127
Number of files consulted from digital collections			3,131,784			5,100,748	10,436,318



Visiting address:  
Cruquiusweg 31  
1019 AT Amsterdam

P.O. Box 2169  
1000 CD Amsterdam  
T + 31 (0) 20 668 5866  
[iisg.amsterdam](http://iisg.amsterdam)