Gerd Baumann
Gerd Baumann’s longstanding research interests developed from the ethnographic study of everyday multi-ethnic co-existence in Africa and Great Britain to a more synthesizing, comparative, and cognitively structural approach. This work continues, but has been augmented, since 2007, by an added focus on global and trans-diasporic media, especially the BBC World Service. With this collaborative international research, we now study not only the lived everyday realities of multicultural co-existence, but also its mediations through, in the BBC’s case, the global broadcaster with the most significant statistical outreach toward transnational diasporas and the greatest aura enjoyed among them in both metropolitan centres and marginalized regions suffering acute ethno-cultural conflict. In the medium term, the aim is a cultural politics of translation (with selected cases from the BBC’s 32 language services); in the longer term, the aim is to synthesize local everyday ethnography with overarching global dynamics.

Selected past publications

Selected future publication projects

Niko Besnier
Niko Besnier’s recent research focuses on the way in which global processes operate through the lives of ordinary people, who often diverge from one another over the local meaning and relevance of these processes. One strand of research, based on
extensive fieldwork in the Pacific Islands, investigates the articulation of gender and sexuality with social processes like modernity, globalization, structural inequality, and agency. Another strand focuses on the body and objects as vehicles that agents utilize to enact the modern condition. A project initiated in 2009 explores the global circulation of professional athletes. It investigates the role of the professionalized athletic body in the tension between state and capitalism, and the centrality of a politics of hope in parts of the world that produce migrant athletes. Another project, also initiated in 2009, is an ethnography of Palm Springs, California, as a site of utopia in the American imaginary.

Selected past publications


Selected future publication projects


Yolanda van Ede
Yolanda van Ede’s current research combines her interest in cultural adaptation and embodiment in the global-local nexus with the anthropology of the senses. In her investigation of flamenco dance and gender in Japan, the Netherlands, and Spain, she applies a sensory analysis of modes of transmission and performance in order to understand flamenco as a transnational vehicle for people, imaginations, meanings, and practices. In addition, she entered a collaboration with International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF), in researching the social and cultural implications of odours and smells on a global scale.
**Selected past publications**


**Selected future publication projects**

The Anthropology of the Senses: An Introduction. (Textbook under preparation)

Stomping Ground: Modern Female Bodies and Flamenco in Tokyo.

Screening Japanese Values through Flamenco: Gender and the Domestication of a Global Dance.

Moving Sights: Towards a Sense of Kinesthetic Perfection in Japanese Flamenco.


**Peter Geschiere**

In the context of the Programme on the Culturalization of Citizenship, funded by NWO, Peter Geschiere works with post-doc researchers from different “countries of provenance” (that is, of immigrants to the Netherlands) on perceptions of changes in fortress Europe and local debates concerning citizenship. The project entitled “Witchcraft, Intimacy and Trust: Africa in Comparison” is a comparative study of the surprising capacity of witchcraft discourses to relate the global to local realities: witchcraft is per definition about mobility, yet it always strikes from close by.

**Selected past publications**


**Selected future publication projects**


[with Susan van Zeyl] Freud and Witchcraft in Africa.
Francio Guadeloupe

Francio Guadeloupe’s research interests are on the manner in which hegemonic and counter-hegemonic understandings of national belonging, multicultural recognition, and the role of religion in public life, are affected by traces of the long colonial moment and the dynamics of global capital. He is currently researching the manner in which Dutch, French and British citizens of West Indian extraction engage with and seek to expand hierarchical ethnic and religious based politics of belonging in Western Europe and the Caribbean.

Concomitantly he is busy writing two future research projects with Dr. Vincent de Rooij and Dr. Eileen Moyer of the UvA. The first of these projects “Trust and Distrust within the Kingdom of the Netherlands” will seek to investigate the social mechanisms which enhance and/or diminish trust among the future political and administrative cadre of the Dutch West Indian islands—Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Saba, and Sint Eustatius—pursuing their higher education in the Netherlands. The second project “The Devil and Development” takes a look the manner in which the Devil—as metaphor for disharmony, the occult, and evil—is obfuscated and simultaneously enacted by Dutch NGOs working in Haiti.

Selected past publications


The National Thing is a Scenario not made for we Third World Massive: a case of working class youths on Saint Martin & Sint Maarten emancipating their minds from exclusive nationalism. Transforming Anthropology 18 (2): 157-168. 2010.


Selected future publication projects


Julie McBrien’s initial research interests focussed on the intertwining of religion and politics in a post-socialist/post-atheist setting. In her current project ‘Dreams and disillusions of young Muslim women’ she explores the hopes young Muslim women have about adult life – dreams of work, family, and material prosperity. She interprets the aspirations and disappointments of these women in light of the most important changes in the region – the political and economic upheavals of the post-socialist period and the dramatic return of Islam to public life following the end of Soviet atheism.

Selected past publications

Selected future publication projects

Annelies Moors’ research, and that of the participants in the programmes she directs, all address Muslim cultural politics in Europe and the Middle East/North Africa. The NORFACE programme deals with ‘The emergence of Islamic fashion as a social force in Europe,’ the NWO programme with ‘Islamic cultural practices and performances: new youth cultures in Europe’, and the Forum programme with ‘Transnational religion’. Focusing on a variety of topics, objects, media, and senses, key terms in these programmes are: cultural production and creative consumption; public Islam and the (micro-)politics of presence; and the ethics and aesthetics of belonging. Her own ethnographic research currently centers on Muslim women’s embodied performances, including both fashionable and less fashionable styles of dress. She will also continue pursuing my interests in the (micro-)politics of marriage...
through a focus on Islamic weddings (music, dress), and informal Islamic marriages (public debates, Islamic law, everyday practices) both in Europe and beyond.

Theoretically speaking, her interest centers on relating culture and politics through a focus on materiality, affect and visuality.

Selected past publications
“Islamic fashion” in Europe: Religious conviction, aesthetic styles and creative consumption. Encounters 1(1) 2009.

Selected future publication projects
NORFACE research project ‘The emergence of Islamic fashion as a social force in Europe’, with four international partners 2007-2010
NWO Cultural dynamics research project ‘Islamic Cultural Practices and Performances: New Youth Cultures in Europe’(five projects with 3 post-docs and 1 PhD), 2008-2012.

Mattijs van de Port
Mattijs van de Port conducted fieldwork in Serbia, the Netherlands, and Brazil, where he focused on processes of authentication and sacralization through which cultural forms become persuasive, credible, and subjectively “real.” He investigates the role of the body and the senses; death and trauma; beauty and the sublime; mysteries and miracles in popular culture and popular religion, to understand how people in a media-saturated universe endow their worldviews with an aura of incontestability. Theoretically speaking, his research agenda calls into question processes of authentication in order to push anthropology beyond its deconstructivist fixations.
Van de Port is currently involved in a research project (with Birgit Meyer and Herman Roodenburg), within the framework of the NWO Cultural Dynamics program, called Heritage Dynamics: Politics of Authentication and Aesthetics of Persuasion in Ghana, Brazil, South Africa and the Netherlands. A future project in Brazil focuses on baroque forms of self- and world-making.
Selected past publications


Selected future publication projects


The Rest of What Is: Encountering the Sacred in Bahian Candomblé. Book manuscript under review.


Vincent de Rooij

Vincent De Rooij’s recent work has focused on processes of identification among urban youths in the Netherlands. Many of them, and especially those from migrant family backgrounds, have difficulties identifying as Dutch but, at the same time, have strong feelings of belonging to a local urban social sphere. De Rooij approaches these identification processes by analyzing language practices that construct, index, and comment on new local, as opposed to national, and ethnic, identities. With Leonie Cornips, Irene Stengs, Joep Leerssen, De Rooij submitted a research proposal to NWO, entitled “Between Nostalgia and Subversion: Language, Language Difference, and the Construction of Cultural Heritage in Limburg.” The proposed project aims to study processes of heritage construction in Limburg, and more specifically, the ways in which language is mobilized in these processes.

Selected past publications


Selected future publication projects


Identity Politics in Online Discussions of Deaf Identity. In preparation, to be submitted to a general anthropology journal.


Rachel Spronk

Rachel Spronk works at the intersection of three scholarly fields - anthropology, gender and sexuality studies, and postcolonial studies. She takes up sexuality as a prism to study social transformations and how these generate new subjectivities. As such, she works out the complexities of sexuality and culture by focussing on public debates about sexuality and culture on the one hand, and personal sexual relationships, intimacy and self-definitions on the other. Her work is part of a small but developing field of research on sexuality that seeks to correct the hegemonic trend of simplifying sex in Africa, and consequently de-erotising it to an act devoid of meaning. She has undertaken ethnographic research on the love and sexual relationships of young professionals in Nairobi, Kenya. In her future research she will focus on shifts in the practices and imagination of intimacy and how this is related to the notion of modern personhood, from an intergenerational perspective. She will study family histories in the middle belt of Nigeria. She has received the NWO VENI grant for her research project "Transformations in intimacy. Sexuality and modern personhood among middle-class Nigerians from 1940 to the present".

Selected past publications

2009 ‘Sex, Sexuality and Negotiating Africanness among Young Professionals in Nairobi’, Africa.
2010 ‘Media and the Praxis of Sexual Knowledge in Nairobi, Anthropologica.

Selected future publication projects

In preparation: Book manuscript Ambiguous Pleasures. Sexuality and Middle Class Self-definitions in Nairobi, Berghahn Publishers.

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Oskar Verkaaik
Oskar Verkaaik’s research interests initially focused on questions of nationalism, ethnicity and religion in South Asia, particularly Pakistan, but also included the interrelatedness of political violence, masculinity, and urban youth culture. I have since then been working on political violence, militancy, and sacrifice as acts that are constitutive of identity formation, rather than the result of already existing cultural identities. I have also developed a research interests in comparative urban anthropology and have been involved in a research project on borderland practices in the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan. More recently, I have worked on the rise of nationalism and anti-Islam sentiments in Europe, especially the Netherlands, which combines in-depth ethnographic work on bureaucratic practices in the field of immigration and integration, as well as an historical analysis of secularization, “sexularism” and nationalism in the Netherlands on the basis of works of art, mainly novels. I am also planning a new research project on the architecture of new European mosques.

Selected past publications

Selected future publication projects