

Call for papers

The next *European Social Science History Conference* (ESSHC) is to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, from Wednesday 11 April to Saturday 14 April 2012. The aim of the ESSHC is bringing together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences. The conference is characterised by a lively exchange in many small groups and is organised in 28 networks which cover a certain topic. The conference language is English. The Network elites will focus on the organisation of sessions about the history of elites. Each session has four to five participants and must include papers from several countries, to achieve a truly international, comparative discussion. Since sessions composed around thematic, theoretical or conceptual questions are preferred to geographical or epoch-related sessions, we would like to organise the two following sessions (under the condition of final acceptance by the network chairs):

Memory and Family

Comparative research on European aristocratic elites in the modern era, 1848-1968

In his novel *The Leopard* (1957) the Italian nobleman G.T. di Lampedusa wrote that the meaning of a noble family depends entirely on the endurance of its vital memories. In 1981 the historian Arno J. Mayer published a highly contested study on the persistence of the old regime in Europe during the years 1850-1914. Mayer argued that until the Great War the haute bourgeoisie and haute finance adopted a noble life style, since the aristocracy was still a ruling elite. Nowadays, the Mayer-thesis has lost much of its attraction.

It is therefore time to place Di Lampedusa's insight high on our research agenda: to assess how far and in which respects aristocratic, noble and bourgeois *models of culture* (their *collective memory* and *family solidarity*) were revitalised and invented in Europe, especially in the decades before and after the Great War. Already in his *Les cadres sociaux de la mémoire* (1925) the French sociologist Maurice Halbwachs (1877-1945) wrote about the resemblances and differences between the function of memory in noble and bourgeois families.

For this session on Memory and Family we would like to discuss work-in-progress papers based on (fictional and non-fictional) sources closely connected with the self-images of aristocratic, noble and bourgeois groups, such as family histories (published or kept in family archives), autobiographies, biographies (individual or collective), written memoirs, collections of letters, diaries, novels and stories.

Organisers: prof.dr. Yme Kuiper, University of Groningen (y.b.kuiper@rug.nl), and prof.dr. Maria Malatesta, University of Bologna (maria.malatesta@unibo.it).

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Upstairs, Downstairs

A cultural and social history of the hierarchy of the country house, 1700-1900

In this session the literal hierarchy discernable in the country house takes centre stage. The spatial organisation in which the noble or otherwise elite owners resided 'upstairs' and their employees worked and lived 'downstairs' was a phenomenon that could be seen across the Continent in the eighteenth and especially the nineteenth century. In tandem with this arrangement scholars often discern a development of more overtly public versus private areas of the house. Not only the architectural developments that enabled this (social) construction will be discussed, also the political and cultural backdrop against which this organisational (moralising, according to Mark Girouard) model came into being, will be examined.

Organisers: dr. Hanneke Ronnes, University of Amsterdam (h.ronnes@uva.nl), prof. dr. Jon Stobart, University of Northampton (jon.stobart@northampton.ac.uk) and prof.dr. Yme Kuiper, University of Groningen (y.b.kuiper@rug.nl).

As organisers of these two sessions we welcome proposals for individual papers. The deadline for sending in your paper proposal is May 1, 2011. To ensure that your proposal gets through, please e-mail it to both organisers of the two sessions.

We look forward to hearing from you!



The stately home Castle Howard (built around 1700; North Yorkshire, England) is one of the greatest private residences in Britain and has been the home of part of the Howard family for more than 300 years. It is familiar to television and movie audiences as the fictional 'Brideshead' of a Roman Catholic noble family, both in a 1981 television series adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* and a 2008 remake cinema.

Contributors

Drs. *Redmer Alma* studied mathematics and history and now works for the *Drents Archief*. (Postbus 595, 9400 AN Assen, the Netherlands)

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Prof.dr. *Renger de Bruin* studied history at Utrecht University. He worked respectively at the universities of Utrecht, Leiden and Greifswald (Germany). He is now curator urban history at *Centraal Museum Utrecht* and professor of Utrecht studies at Utrecht University. (Centraal Museum, Postbus 2105, 3500 GC Utrecht, the Netherlands)

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Dr. *Mario Damen* is a lecturer in medieval history at the University of Amsterdam and specialised in the social-political history of the Netherlands in the Late Middle Ages. He received his PhD from the Free University Amsterdam in 2000 (published as *De staat van dienst. De gewestelijke ambtenaren van Holland en Zeeland in de Bourgondische periode* (Verloren: Hilversum) in the same year). He publishes about corruption, gift-exchange and stained glass and, at the moment, mainly about the nobility in the Burgundian Netherlands, specifically in the Duchy of Brabant. (Spuistraat 134, 1012 VB Amsterdam, the Netherlands - m.j.m.damen@uva.nl)

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Prof.dr. *S. Groenveld* was, until his retirement in 2006, professor in the history and culture of the Dutch Republic at Leiden University. He writes about many aspects of Dutch history from the sixteenth until the eighteenth century. In 2009 he published: *Unie-Bestand-Vrede. Drie fundamentele wetten van de Republiek der Verenigde Nederlanden* (Verloren: Hilversum) and *Het Twaalfjarig Bestand 1609-1621. De jongelingsjaren van de Republiek der Verenigde Nederlanden* (Verloren: 's-Gravenhage-Hilversum). (Rijksstraatweg 697b, 2245 CB Wassenaar, the Netherlands)

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