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Present Positions

2015-present Co-applicant and member of the supervisory board Clariah project (Common Lab Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities)
2015-present Member of the Advisory Board of the Financial and Institutional Reforms for an Entrepreneurial Society (FIRES)
2014-present Chair of the section Economic and Social History, Utrecht University
2012-present Honorary President of the International Economic History Association
2011-present Honorary Angus Maddison Professor, University of Groningen
2011-present Academy Professor, The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Netherlands
2011-present Extraordinary Professor of Economics, Stellenbosch University
2009-present Faculty Professor Global Economic History, Utrecht University
2007-present Leader of the CLIO-INFRA project

Education

1985 Ph.D, Agricultural University of Wageningen: The Economic Development of Agriculture in the Netherlands in the Nineteenth Century
1981-1985 Research assistant at the Faculty of History and Arts of the Free University
1975-1981 Student of economics and history at the Free University, Amsterdam

Previous Affiliations

2009-2012 President of the International Economic History Association
2006-2009 Vice-president of the International Economic History Association, and chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the XVth World Economic History Congress (<http://www.wehc2009.org>), Utrecht 2009
2001-2009 Senior Research Fellow at the IISH
1999-2000 Advisor of the Commission on financial assets of victims of the Second World War (Commissie Scholten)
1998-2006 Secretary-General of the International Economic History Association (<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ieha/>)
1997-present Member of the KNAW, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
1994-1998 Director of the N.W. Posthumus Institute, Netherlands graduate school for economic and social history
1992-2009 Professor in Economic History at Utrecht University
1987-1992 Professor in Economic and Social History at the Free University, Amsterdam
1985-1987 Lecturer in Economic History at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Key Publications

How Was Life? Global Well-Being since 1820. With Joerg Baten, Marco Mira d'Ercole, Auke Rijpma, Conal Smith and Marcel Timmer (eds.). Paris: OECD, 2014.

'The Rise and Decline of European Parliaments, 1188-1789'. With Eltjo Buringh and Maarten Bosker, *Economic History Review* 65 (2012) 835-861.

'Persistent but not consistent: The growth of national income in Holland 1347-1807', with Bas van Leeuwen, *Explorations in Economic History* 49 (2012b), 119-130.

The Long Road to the Industrial Revolution. The European Economy in a Global Perspective, 1000-1800. Leiden: Brill, 2009.

The Structures of Inheritance. The Dutch Economy in the Nineteenth Century. With Arthur van Riel. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Research Agenda and Projects

Why are some countries rich and others poor? When did global inequality begin to emerge, and what can be learned from this process? And when will it come to an end? Jan Luiten van Zanden has devoted his career to reconstruct the historical development of global inequality, and to find out why certain countries, such as The Netherlands, have been relatively successful, whereas others, for example Indonesia, lagged behind. He first of all focused on reconstructing the 'facts': how did welfare develop in the very long run in the various parts of the world economy. Part of this research went back to the Middle Ages, when the first foundations for Western prosperity were laid. Next, he aims to explain the long term trends in the world economy making use of recent theoretical insights into the drivers of development. In this recent work he stresses the role played by (female) agency in economic development (via, for example, the decisions taken by women about fertility and human capital formation) and of institutions which make it possible to share power and restrain the executive (for example in his – together with Maarten Prak - history of the Dutch poldermodel). He moreover plays a central role in the international research on global economic history, as (former) president of the International Economic History Association, and as organizer of Clio Infra, a large research project aimed to reconstruct the long-term evolution of global inequality. A spin off of this project was the OECD report *How was Life? Global Well-Being since 1820*, published in 2014, in which a historical perspective is added to the 'GDP and beyond' debate. Together with his Utrecht colleagues he set up the Centre for Global Economic History (www.cgeh.nl).

Current research projects are:

The Maddison project, a collaborative to continue the work by Angus Maddison (<http://www.ggdcc.net/maddison/maddison-project/home.htm>)

CLIO-INFRA, a collaborative project aimed at setting up a new research infrastructure for social science history (NWO-groot) (<http://www.clio-infra.eu/>)

Agency, gender and economic development. NOW open competition program with University of Nijmegen (<http://www.cgeh.nl/agency-project>)

Athena project on the history of biodiversity in the Netherlands and elsewhere (<https://www.athena-research.org/>)

CLARIAH, Common Lab Research Infrastructure for the Arts and the Humanities (<http://www.clariah.nl/>)

A complete bibliography (of 180 papers and books) and pdf files of many older publications can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/JLvanZanden>.