

Utrecht Human Geography Student Culture, Student Press and Student Activism (1951-2000).

Writing the history of Utrecht Human geography 'from below'.

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Research group: Geography and Education

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Project description

Utrecht Human geography students and their student association, V.U.G.S have published their own journal containing student banter, excursion announcements, student research, and student-staff dialogues since 1951. After 1970, in the aftermath of the student revolts of the late 1960s, the StensulGeeCee, mimeographed on the leftover pages of the department newsletter, becomes ever more self-confident and criticizes the departmental powers that be.

Using the power of the mimeograph machine, Utrecht students forged their own visual culture, activism, and debate. These magazines hold forgotten stories of academic student life, from the modest 1950s, to the rebellious 1970s, to the neoliberal 1980s and the globalizing 1990s. Pages filled with hand-drawn cartography, fieldwork stories, opinion pieces, illustrations and comics provide lively narratives about the turbulent student (and staff) lives of past generations.

In this Bright Minds Assistant role, you will explore this changing culture. This project aims to chronicle the student magazines of the geography student union (V.U.G.S) and staff communication magazines in the second half of the twentieth century. If you are interested in, for example, historical discussions on geographical intellect, student activism, experiential learning, terminology, academic strategies or maps, or just the V.U.G.S in general, these magazines are exciting data to work with.

This project is well-suited for a student interested in the history of geography and student culture. As a Bright Minds assistant, you could contribute to discourse analysis, image analysis, or conducting additional interviews (oral histories) with alumni that contributed and collaborate in the creation of a digital archive. The project provides writing opportunities for popular and academic audiences, depending on the fellow's interests and ambition.

Job requirements

- Dutch proficiency
- Enthusiasm for working with historical data (no previous experience required)

