

# Curriculum vitae

## Beer Pieterjan Prakken

Utrecht 3 June 1996

Barentszplein 32

1013 NJ, Amsterdam

+316 33798123

[b.p.prakken@rug.nl](mailto:b.p.prakken@rug.nl)

## Bio:

I am a PhD candidate in philosophy at the University of Groningen interested in the intersection of play, humor, and politics. In 2020, I completed my bachelor's degree in history and two master's degrees in philosophy and history in 2022. Currently, I am pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD program, which aims to analyze the usage of humor and play by politicians and the ethics surrounding it. I am also working on historical research about urban spaces and black washerwomen in Antebellum New Orleans.

## Education

2017-2020 History, University of Groningen, BA

2019 Minor Florence-Rome (NIKI-KNIR), Dutch University Institute for Art History, Florence / Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome, Italy  
*The Dutch Institutes in Italy selected me with ten other Dutch (Art) History Students from multiple Dutch universities to follow a minor Art History in Florence and Rome.*

2020-2022 Philosophy of History, University of Groningen, MA (Cum Laude)

2021-2022 History Today, University of Groningen, MA (Cum Laude)

2022-present PhD Candidate, Philosophy and Arts Faculty, University of Groningen

2025 Visiting PhD Student, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University

2025-present Predoctoral Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University

2025-present Guest Researcher, Department of Media and Cultural Studies, Utrecht University

## Awards

DANYS Young Scholar Award (with \$500 stipend), at the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) – April 20, 2024.

## Academic publications

"[Het verdeelde nut van Geschiedenis](#)," *Groniek*, December 15, 2022.

"[Playful Transgression Theory of Humor and Laughter](#)", co-author with Leland Masek, *Philosophy of Humor Yearbook* 6:1 (2025): 1-30.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/phhumyb-2025-0001>

"Dark Play, Trolling, and Absorption in Trumpism," *Playing Politics: Media Platforms Making Worlds*, edited by Sybille Lammes, Frans-Willem Korsten, Frank Chouraqui, Bram Ieven, Sara Polak, Alex Gekker, Saniye Ince, forthcoming (fully accepted).

"Humorous Political Rhetoric: A U.S. Case Study," *The European Journal of Humour Research*, forthcoming in 2025 (revise and re-submit)

"Black Resistance, Struggle and Agency on Canal Street's Neutral Ground: A

Washerwomen's Case Study 1837-1841," *Louisiana History*, forthcoming in (accepted with minor revisions).

"Affective Shifts in Political Comedy: The Move to Seriousness in Late Night Comedy," co-author with Andreas Kraxberg, *Comedy Studies*, June 2025.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/2040610X.2025.2512676>

### Public engagement

Presentation "Homo Ludens & Trump" at *Night of Philosophy* in Forum Groningen – April 19, 2024.

Public essay "[Politiek duister spel](#)" *Bij Nader Inzien*, July 2024.

Presentation "Humor in de Politiek" at *Brainwash Festival* in De Balie, Amsterdam – October 27, 2024.

Public essay "[How humour and 'dark play' radicalise Trump's voter base](#)," *The Conversation*. Published on November 4, 2024.

Interview in "[Trump verpakt extreme ideeën in grappen. 'Humor is niet per se onschuldig](#)," *Trouw*. Published on December 16, 2024.

Interview in "[Het politieke jaar in memes: Trump, Oekraïne en kabinet Schoof](#)." *Volkskrant*. Published on December 31, 2024.

Radio interview "[Sanne Wallis de Vries en Beer Prakken over politieke satire als wapen](#)". NPO Radio 1 – Spraakmakers KRO-NCRV. Published on February 25, 2025.

Public essay "[Cynisme en humor in de democratie: het beruchte SBS6-debat](#)." *Montesquieu Instituut*. Published on April 15, 2025.

Interview in "[Trumps politiek heeft veel weg van showworstelen. 'Het is nep én echt, geweld én theater](#).'" *Trouw*. Published on June 26, 2025

### Conference presentations

Poster presentation at the Meet & Greet event "Perspectives on Polarization" at the University of Groningen, Groningen, NL – November 18, 2022

Online presentation "Black struggle on Canal St." at the Louisiana Historical Association in LA, USA – February 11, 2023

Presentation "Interdisciplinary in humor: politicians as comedians" at the PhD/i and Young Academy Groningen, Interdisciplinary in Practice: a PhD symposium in Groningen, NL – May 9, 2023

Online presentation "Humor usage by AOC and Trump" at the Nelson Mandela University, Humour and Power Conference in Gqeberha, South Africa – June 20, 2023

Presentation "Humor usage by AOC and Trump" at the Boston University, International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) conference in Boston, MS, USA -- July 4, 2023

Presentation "An ontology of humor and play" at the Lighthearted Philosophers' Society (LPS) in Whitefish, MT, USA – November 10, 2023

Presentation "Mediating humor in U.S. politics" at the Ghent University, Humor and Conflict in the Digital Age (HACIDA) conference in Ghent, Belgium – November 30, 2023

Presentation "An ontology of humor and play" at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Graduate Conference in Theoretical Philosophy in Rotterdam, NL – December 11, 2023

Online presentation "Humorous Political Rhetoric" at the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) – April 20, 2024.

Online presentation with PhD researcher Leland Masek “Using Rules to Break Rules: Humor and Comedy as Playful Transgression” at the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) – April 21, 2024.

Presentation “Humorous Political Rhetoric” at the University of Amsterdam, Humor Workshop –May 31, 2024.

Invited online presentation “Dark play, absorption and propaganda in Trumpism” at the Games as Art Center in Tampere, Finland – October 25, 2024.

Presentation “Dark play, trolling and absorption in Trumpism” at the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) – November 1, 2024.

Invited presentation “Black Resistance, Struggle and Agency on Canal Street’s Neutral Ground,” at the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA – March 19, 2025.

Presentation “When the trolls take over” at the CCS Spring Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT – April 25, 2025.

### Teaching

2023-2024 Guest lecturer “Philosophy of Emotions”, BA honors course

2023-2024 Guest lecturer “Introduction to Ethics”, BA course

2024-2025 Teacher “Philosophical Thinking”, BA course

2024-2025 Guest lecturer, “Minor Rhetoric”, BA course

2024-2025 BA thesis supervisor

### Languages

Dutch - fluent

English - fluent

Italian – academic working skills, exam *Italian Reading Practicum* (2019)

### Academic organization

2023 Co-organizer of the annual PhD Day at the Faculty of Philosophy

2023-2024 Work in Progress (WIP) meetings organizer at the Faculty of Philosophy

2023-2024 PhD council member at the Faculty of Philosophy

2024-2025 Member of the Program Committee

2025 Co-organizer of the Politicologetmaal 2025 at University of Groningen

### Other experience

2017-2018 R.K.S.V. Albertus Magnus, Groningen, editor of the *Bokaal der Heldere Geesten*, student magazine

2020-2023 Humanitas, Groningen, Language Teacher

2020-2021 UNESCO, The Hague, Secretary of the UNESCO Youth Committee

2021-2022 UNESCO, The Hague, project developer

*Worked on a project for the creation of a museum youth platform. I pitched this idea at the international museum conference of ICOM in Leuven on 26 October 2021.*

2022 UNESCO, The Hague, Intern

*From April 2022 until July 2022, I followed an internship at UNESCO in order to obtain funding for the Museum Youth project.*