

CURRICULUM VITAE

Version: 19-04-2024

Dr. Gerben Zaagsma

Assistant Professor

Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH)

M: gerben.zaagsma@uni.lu

W: <https://www.c2dh.uni.lu/people/gerben-zaagsma>

W: <https://gerbenzaagsma.org>

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5978-9769>

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern European history; Jewish history; digital history; public history; music history; heritage studies; information science; comparative history; history of transfers; transnational history; migration studies; Yiddish Studies.

EDUCATION

- 2008. Ph.D. in Modern History: Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute (Florence, Italy). Dissertation: *'A fresh outburst of the old terror'? Jewish-born volunteers in the Spanish Civil War.*
- 2001. MA in Yiddish Studies: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Thesis: *Jewish Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. A Case Study of the Botwin Company.*
- 1996. MA in Modern History: Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen, The Netherlands. Thesis: *'Music to match the badchn songs'. The role of klezmer and klezmerim in Jewish culture in Europe and the United States.*

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017-present. Assistant Professor at the [Centre for Contemporary and Digital History \(C²DH\)](#) at the University of Luxembourg.
- 2013-2016. Research Fellow in project *The diaries of Anne Frank. Research—Translations—Critical Edition*, Lichtenberg Kolleg, The Göttingen Institute of Advanced Study, University of Göttingen. Responsible for annotating a new scholarly critical edition of the Anne Frank diaries.
- 2011-2013. Editor/ web developer Huygens ING, Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- 2010-2011. Digital humanities consultant/ (web)editor for Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands and European University Institute, Florence.
- 2008-2010. Honorary Research Associate (postdoc), Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London. Project: *Jewish migrants & politics in Western Europe before the Holocaust.*
- 1998-2000. Researcher, Public History Research and Consultancy Center, Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen, The Netherlands (Geschiedeniswinkel RuG).
- 1998-2000. Manager/Administrator/tour guide: Folkingestraat Synagogue Foundation Groningen; organisation of exhibitions, public relations, guided tours.
- 1996-1997. Editor and exhibition organiser Foundation for the History of the Jews in Groningen.

TEACHING

- 2017-present. University of Luxembourg:
 - MA seminar *Debating Genocide and Mass Violence in the 21st Century: Europe and Beyond*.
 - MA seminar *Beyond the Diary of Anne Frank: Egodocuments and the Construction of Holocaust Memory*.
 - BA seminar *Music and Contemporary History*.
 - MA seminar *Introduction to Digital History/ Winter School in Digital History* (as co-convenor, coordinator, co-lecturer).
 - MA seminar *Doing Digital History - The International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War*.
 - MA seminar *Digital Approaches to Modern Jewish History*.
 - MA seminar *Jewish responses to Persecution and Anti-Semitism in the 20th Century*.
- 2015-2016. BA seminar *Jewish Responses to Persecution and Anti-Semitism in the 20th century*, Seminar für Neuere und Neueste Geschichte, Georg-August Universität Göttingen.
- 2013. Seminar *Digital Historical Research* at the Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.
- 2008-present. Various (invited) lectures & skills seminars taught on modern Jewish history and digital humanities in the UK, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, for undergraduate/graduate/postgraduate students.
- 1997. Seminar *Jewish History in the Netherlands and the City of Groningen*, Adult Education Academy, University of Groningen.

SERVICE

- 2017-present. Member/ (Vice-)Chair of the [Ethics Review Panel](#), University of Luxembourg (Vice-Chair from November 2019; Chair July 2020 - July 2022).
- 2017-2020. Head of the Research Area Digital History and Historiography & member of management team, [Centre for Contemporary and Digital History \(C²DH\)](#) at the University of Luxembourg.
- 2010-2015. Academic Advisory Board [Judaica Europæana](#).
- 2004-2005. Researcher representative, Department of History and Civilisation, European University Institute (Florence, Italy).
- 1992-1994. Student member Department of History council, University of Groningen.
- 1992-1993. Secretary Association of History Students, University of Groningen.
- 1991-1992. Board member Association of History Students, University of Groningen.

EDITORIAL

- 2022-present. Editor of [#DHJewish - Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities](#) (with Michelle Margolis).
- 2021-present. Series editor [Studies in Digital History and Hermeneutics](#) (with Andreas Fickers, Valérie Schafer and Sean Takats).
- 2020-present. Editorial board [Studia Rosenthaliana. Journal of the History, Culture and Heritage of the Jews in the Netherlands](#).
- 2020-present. Editorial board [Journal of Digital History](#).
- 2020-present. [Digital Forum Advisory Board](#) of the European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS).
- 2013-2017. Editorial board Anne Frank Diaries critical edition.
- 2011-2013: Editorial board [Historici.nl](#), Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands.

CONFERENCE PLANNING & ORGANISATION

- 2024. [The Value of the Digital. #DHJewish Conference and Hackathon](#) (Potsdam).
- 2021. [#DHJewish - Jewish Studies in the Digital Age](#) (University of Luxembourg).
- 2020. [ForumZ - Holocaust History and Memory](#).

- 2019-2021: Lecture series [New Horizons: Confronting the Digital Turn in the Humanities](#).
- 2018. International conference and workshop [Digital Hermeneutics in History: Theory and Practice](#).
- 2018. [5th Digital Humanities Benelux conference](#) (Programme Co-Chair)
- 2017. [Tagung "From Tablet to Tablet"](#), expert workshop on Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities; co-organised with the Rothschild Foundation and the Institut für die Geschichte der Deutschen Juden (IGdJ), Hamburg.
- 2014. [THATCamp \(The Humanities and Technology Camp\) The Hague](#), Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands
- 2012. Digital History conference, Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands.

LANGUAGES

- Dutch: Mother tongue.
- English: Excellent reading, speaking and writing.
- German: Good reading, speaking, writing.
- French: Good reading, intermediate speaking.
- Yiddish: Good reading, intermediate speaking.
- Italian: Intermediate reading, basic speaking.
- Spanish: Intermediate reading.
- Turkish: Beginner.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- [European Association for Jewish Studies](#) (EJS).
- [Association for Jewish Studies](#) (AJS).
- [Vereinigung für Jüdische Studien](#).
- [Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations](#) (ADHO)
- [Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands e.V.](#) Within the Historikerverband member of [Arbeitsgruppe Digitale Geschichtswissenschaft](#) und [Netzwerk Jüdische Geschichte digital](#).
- [International Federation for Public History](#) (IFPH-FIHP).
- [International Council on Archives](#) (ICA). Within ICA member of the [Section on Archives and Human Rights](#).
- [Association for Information Science and Technology](#) (ASIS&T).
- [EuroClio - European Association of History Educators](#).
- [Society for the History of Humanities](#).

GRANTS, AWARDS, FUNDING

- 2022. Henrietta Hertz Fellow, University of Potsdam. Three month guest fellowship in the field of Digital Jewish Heritage.
- 2020. RFHE Archives and Libraries Digital Humanities Second Stage Grant 2020-2021: Project "Building a Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities online portal" - Phase 2.
- 2019. FNR-RESCOM Grant C²DH Lecture Series New Horizons: Confronting the Digital Turn in the Humanities (2019-2021).
- 2019. Best Paper Award, Digital Humanities Benelux Conference 2019.
- 2018. RFHE Pilot and Small Grants Programme 2018-2019: Project "Building a Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities online portal" - Phase 1.
- 2012. Alfred Krupp Junior-Fellowship 2012-2013 (declined in favor of job at Huygens Institute for the History of The Netherlands).
- 2008-2010. Postdoctoral grant of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah in Paris 2008-2010.
- 2009. Posen Foundation Travel Grant to attend Association of Jewish Studies 2009 conference.

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

Under review:

- Article *Facing the History Machine: Towards Histories of Digital History* (History of Humanities).
- Article 'Help, betrayal and the importance of networks – Jews in hiding in the Netherlands and the case of Anne Frank' (in edited volume to be published with new critical edition of the Anne Frank diaries, Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Books

- [Jewish Volunteers, the International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War](#) (London; Bloomsbury Academic, 2017).

Edited volumes

- [Jewish Studies in the Digital Age](#) (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022). Co-edited with Amalia Levi, Michelle Margolis, Miriam Rürup and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra.
- [Handbook of Digital Public History](#) (Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022). Co-edited with Serge Noiret and Mark Tebeau.
- [Integrating Digital Humanities](#), inaugural issue of [DH Benelux journal](#) (2019). Co-edited with Julie Birkholz.
- [Digital History](#), special issue *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review* 128/4 (2013). Editor.
- *Life and Work of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis* (CD-ROM; University of Groningen, 1998). Editor (in Dutch).
- [The Folkinge Street. History of the Jewish community in Groningen](#) (Groningen; Egbert Forsten, 1996). Co-edited with Lies Ast-Boiten (in Dutch).

Peer-reviewed articles

- [Digital History and the Politics of Digitisation](#), *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 38/2 (2023) 830–851.
- [The 'Jewish Freedom Fighter'. The legacy of Naftali Botwin and the construction of a transnational cult of Jewish heroes](#), Clara Royer and Eszter Balasz eds., *The Cult of Heroes in Central Europe (1880-1945) – Transnational and Interdisciplinary Aspects* (Paris: Eur'Orbem Éditions, 2019).
- [#DHJewish – Jewish Studies in the digital age](#), *Medaon* 23 (2018).
- 'Jewish responses to anti-Semitism in Paris and London in the late 1930s as European Jewish political history' in: Frank Bajohr and Dieter Pohl eds., [Right-Wing Politics and the Rise of Antisemitism in Europe 1935-1941](#) (Göttingen; Wallstein-Verlag, 2018) 95-113.
- [On Digital History](#), *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review* 128/4 (2013) 3-29.
- [Public history beyond the state: Presenting the Yiddish past in contemporary Europe](#), *Memoria e Ricerca* 37 (2011) 37, 129-142.
- 'The Local and the International - Jewish Communists in Paris Between the Wars', *Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook* 8 (2009) 345-363.
- ['Red Devils': The Botwin company in the Spanish Civil War](#), *East European Jewish Affairs* 33 (2003) 83-99.

Book chapters & other articles

- 'Between Online and Offline: Doing Archival Research in the Digital Age', [ARCHIV. theorie & praxis](#) 77/1 (2024) 16-19.
- 'Introduction' in: [Jewish Studies in the Digital Age](#) (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2022). Co-authored with Michelle Margolis, Amalia Levi, Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra and Miriam Rürup.
- 'Introduction' in: [Handbook of Digital Public History](#) (Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022) 1-15. Co-authored with Serge Noiret and Mark Tebeau.
- 'Content Management' in: [Handbook of Digital Public History](#) (Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022) 433-439.

- [with Julie Birkholz], [Introduction: Integrating Digital Humanities](#), Inaugural issue of [DH Benelux journal](#) (September 2019).
- [with Lars Wieneke] 'Digital Resources and Tools in Historical Research. [Picture archives and the emergence of visual history of education. ISCHE 40 pre-conference workshop. 3rd workshop "Pictura Paedagogica Online: educational knowledge in images"](#) (Berlin, 2018)
- 'Using Digital Sources in Historical Research. Jewish History on the Internet' in: Frédéric Clavert and Serge Noiret eds., *Contemporary history in the digital age* (Oxford; Peter Lang, 2013) 201-213.
- 'Propaganda or fighting the myth of pakhdones? Naye Prese, the Popular Front, and the Spanish Civil War' in: Lara Rabinovitch, Shiri Goren and Hannah Pressman eds., [Choosing Yiddish: New Frontiers of Language and Culture](#) (Detroit; Wayne State University Press, 2012) 87-103.
- 'Transnational networks of Jewish migrant radicals - The case of Berlin' in: Verena Dohrn and Gertrud Pickhan eds., [Transit und Transformation: Osteuropäisch-Jüdische Migranten in Berlin 1918-1939](#) (Göttingen; Wallstein Verlag, 2010) 218-233.
- [Die Botwin Kompagnie](#) in: Dan Diner ed., *Enzyklopädie jüdischer Geschichte und Kultur* (Stuttgart; Metzler Verlag, 2011) 392-397.
- [Yiddish in Historical Research: Some Reflections](#), *European Judaism* 42 (2009) 19-23.
- [The klezmerim of Prague. About a Jewish musicians guild](#), *East European Meetings in Ethnomusicology* 7 (2000) 41-48.

Miscellaneous writings

- [Digitising History From a Global Perspective; And What This Tells Us About Access and Inequality](#), Part 5 of Royal Historical Society blog series [Historical Research in the Digital Age](#) (22 February 2023).

Reviews & conference reports

- [Review: Gildea & Tames eds., Fighters acrossfrontiers. Transnational resistance in Europe, 1936–48](#), in Francia-Recensio 2022/2.
- [Review: A. Crymble: Technology and the Historian \(Urbana 2021\)](#), in: H-Soz-Kult 16.09.2021.
- [Review: Mapping Modern Jewish Cultures](#), Reviews in Digital Humanities, "Jewish Digital Humanities" Special Issue 2/1 (January 2021).
- [Tagungsbericht jüdische Geschichte digital](#), 13.06.2013-14.06.2013, Hamburg, in: H-Soz-u-Kult 10.09.2013.
- [Review of Kobrin, Rebecca, Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora](#). H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews. May, 2011.
- [Review of Berg, Hetty, Wallet, Bart \(eds.\), Wie niet weg is, is gezien. Joods Nederland na 1945 \(Zwolle: Waanders, 2010\)](#) in: *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review* 126/3 (2011) 146-148.
- [Review of Thomas Rütten, Geschichten vom Hippokratischen Eid \(Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag 2007\)](#) in: *Studium* 1 (2008) 301-302.

Interviews

As part of the 2019-2021 Lecture series [New Horizons: Confronting the Digital Turn in the Humanities](#):

- 30-01-2019 - Interview with Prof. Dr Andrew Prescott (University of Glasgow).
- 29-05-2019 - Interview with Prof. Dr Tim Hitchcock (University of Sussex).
- 26-06-2019 - Interview with Prof. Dr David Bodenhamer (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis).
- 18-09-2019 - Interview with Prof. Dr Jane Winters (School of Advanced Study, University of London).
- 06-11-2019 - Interview with Prof. Dr Steven E. Jones (University of South Florida).
- 27-11-2019 - Interview with Dr. Melvin Wevers (University of Amsterdam).
- 04-03-2021 - Interview with Dr. Smiljana Antonijević (Illinois Institute of Technology - Institute of Design).

Datasets

- [Yiddish Periodicals in Germany](#)
- [DHJewish bibliography 2019-2022](#)

Websites

- [as developer/co-editor] [#DHJEwish - Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities](#) portal.
- [as developer] [Historici.nl](#) (version 2011-2013).
- [as developer/co-editor since 2008-2021] [European History Primary Sources](#) (discontinued, link to Wayback Machine archive).
- [as developer/editor since 2005] [Yiddish Sources](#) (discontinued).