

# Joep van Lit

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## Academic Positions

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### PhD Candidate in Empirical Political Science

Radboud University

Date of defence: 31 October 2025

10.2020 - present

### Lecturer

Radboud University

10.2020 - present

### Visting Researcher

Varieties of Democracy Institute

03.2023 - 06.2023

### Junior Lecturer

Leiden University

09.2019 - 10.2020

## Education

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### MPhil in Political Science and Public Administration

Research Master of Science, cum laude

Leiden University

09.2017 - 09.2019

### BA in African Studies

cum laude

Leiden University

09.2015 - 05.2018

### BSc in Political Science

Leiden University

09.2012 - 03.2016

## Publications

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- 2025 **Defending Democracy: Investigating the Efficacy of Elite Democratic Defence in a Competitive Information Environment** with Maurits Meijers, accepted in *West European Politics* · 📄 Data and replication materials *Journal Article*
- 2025 **Democratie als ge(s)laagd samenspel** with Marlies Honingh and Carolien van Ham, *Beleid en Maatschappij*, 52(2), 88-104 · 📄 Link (Dutch) (open access) *Journal Article*
- 2024 **Opvattingen over democratie in Nederland** in the Dutch parliamentary election study: *De verkiezingen van 2023. Van onderstroom naar doorbraak: Onvrede en migratie* · 📄 Link (Dutch) *Report chapter*
- 2024 **Populism and Democracy** with Saskia Ruth-Lovell, Rosa Kindt, and Marie Theuwis, in *Populism: An Introduction*, edited by Robert Huber and Michael Jankowski · 📄 Link *Book chapter*
- 2023 **Countering Autocratization: A Roadmap for Democratic Defence** with Carolien van Ham and Maurits J. Meijers, *Democratization*, 31(4), 765-787 · 📄 Link (open access) *Journal Article*

## Currently under review

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05.2025	<b>Gambitting democracy: When civil servants do (or do not) defend democracy</b> Submitted to <i>European Journal of Political Research</i>	<i>Revise&amp;Resubmit</i>
05.2025	<b>Credible Resistance or Political Ploy? When Parliamentarians Stand Up for Democracy</b> with Maurits Meijers and Carolien van Ham Submitted to <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i> ·  OSF Preregistration	<i>Revise&amp;Resubmit</i>
04.2025	<b>The Autocrat's Toolkit: A Typology of Autocratic Action</b> with Carolien van Ham Submitted to <i>European Political Science Review</i> ·  SSRN Pre-print	<i>Resubmitted after reviews</i>
03.2025	<b>Justifying the Unjustifiable: In-party Cues and Citizen Acceptance of Democratic Transgressions</b> with Natasha Wunsch and Tsveta Petrova Submitted to <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>	<i>Under review</i>

## Working Papers

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7.	<b>Democratic Dilemma: How Citizens Evaluate Resistance to Autocratization that Violates Democratic Principles</b> with Lisa Janssen and Hannah Werner	<i>Conference paper</i>
6.	<b>The autocrat strikes back: Autocratic countermoves against democratic defence</b> with Lisa Janssen	<i>Conference paper</i>
5.	<b>When push comes to shove: the normalization of political violence</b> with Rozemarijn van Dijk ·  OSF Preregistration	<i>Conference paper</i>
4.	<b>Who are effective democratic defenders? How elites shape citizen awareness of democratic recession</b> with Maurits Meijers and Carolien van Ham, part of a Special Issue in <i>Democratization</i> (Summer 2025) ·  OSF Preregistration	<i>Conference paper</i>
3.	<b>Deconstructing Understandings of Democracy</b>	<i>Conference paper</i>
2.	<b>Where Supply Meets Demand for Democratic Transgressions</b> with Natasha Wunsch and Tsveta Petrova	<i>Conference paper</i>
1.	<b>Autocratic Counterfactuals: Rethinking the Role of Institutions in Sustaining Democracy</b>	<i>Conference paper</i>

# Conferences and Workshops

(P - Paper & Presentation, D - Discussant, C - Chair)

## Conferences

**APSA Annual Meeting** 2024 (P.)

**EPSA Annual Conference** 2023 (P.), 2024 (P.)

## Workshops

06.2025	<b>Is Dutch Democracy in Decline?</b> Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries	Workshop director
05.2022	<b>Citizens' democratic commitment in times of affective polarisation</b> ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops	(P.D.)
09.2024	<b>Resilience against Extremism</b> Free University of Amsterdam	(P.)
07.2024	<b>Responding to Demand? Voters' grievances, PRR success, and mainstream party strategies</b> University of Swansea	(P.)
05.2024	<b>Democracy and its Discontents</b> University of Pavia	(P.)
04.2024	<b>Roots of Resilience: Democratic Durability, Renovation and Re-Democratization</b> University of Birmingham	(P.)
03.2024	<b>Sounding the Alarm: Comparing Early Signs of Democratic Recession in Established and Backsliding Democracies</b> ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops · <a href="#">more info</a>	Workshop director
09.2023	<b>Resisting the autocratic turn: Can (and should) autocratization be prevented, stopped, and resisted?</b> Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	(P.D.)
08.2023	<b>Citizens' Attitudes towards Democracy: Measurement, Causes, and Consequences</b> ETH Zürich	(P.D.)
04.2023	<b>Judicial Resilience and Democratic Decay</b> ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops	(P.D.)
06.2022	<b>Turning the Tide – Autocratization and Democratic Defence during the Third Wave of Autocratization</b> Annual Political Science Workshops of the Low Countries	Workshop director
04.2022	<b>Domestic responses to Democratic Backsliding: Citizens, Civil Society, and Parties</b> ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops	(P.D.)

# Outreach and Valorisation

06.2025	<b>Democratic erosion in the Netherlands</b> Debate and lecture at Armenius Debatcentrum · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public talk
06.2025	<b>Voter or Capital: Who Defines Democracy?</b> Radboud Reflects lecture · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public talk
06.2025	<b>Equality according to Piketty and Sandel</b> Radboud Reflects course · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public course
06.2025	<b>Dutch government collapses after far-right leader Wilders quits coalition</b> interview with Reuters · <a href="#">📺 read here</a>	Interview
02.2025	<b>Tegen democratische erosie: Samen scherp op inperking van maatschappelijke tegengmacht</b> with Margit van Wessel and Barbara van Paassen · <a href="#">📖 read here</a> (Dutch)	Policy Note
02.2025	<b>Trump, Musk, and DOGE</b> Radboud Reflects lecture · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a> · <a href="#">🎧 podcast</a>	Public talk
02.2025	<b>Duurzame democratie op het decentrale niveau</b> with Carolien van Ham, in <i>Staat van het Bestuur</i> · <a href="#">📖 read here</a> (Dutch)	Policy note
12.2024	<b>Hoe uiterst rechts de EU van binnenuit ondermijnt</b> interview in <i>Vrij Nederland</i> · <a href="#">📺 read here</a> (Dutch)	Interview
02.2024	<b>Hoofdstuk 2 - Startnotitie expertmeeting democratische erosie</b> with Carolien van Ham and Marlies Honingh, in <i>Verkenning en verdieping democratische erosie en respons in Nederland</i> · <a href="#">📖 read here</a> (Dutch)	Policy Note
02.2024	<b>Hoofdstuk 4 - Democratische normen: normbesef en normstelling</b> with Maurits Meijers and Carolien van Ham, in <i>Verkenning en verdieping democratische erosie en respons in Nederland</i> · <a href="#">📖 read here</a> (Dutch)	Policy note
01.2024	<b>Anti-democratic Politics in Europe</b> Radboud Reflects lecture and conversation on European and Dutch democracy · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a> · <a href="#">📺 recording</a> · <a href="#">🎧 podcast</a>	Public talk
12.2023	<b>European Strategic Dialogue</b> on the implications of the Polish electoral shift · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public talk
06.2023	<b>Roundtable with the Permanent Committee on the Interior of the Dutch Parliament</b> on the resilience of Dutch democracy · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Policy advice
11.2022	<b>Wat is er KROM in je rechtsstaat?</b> talk show about the Dutch rule of law · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public talk
10.2022	<b>Autocratic Backsliding</b> presentation and Q&A at the Dutch festival of democracy, Grondfest · <a href="#">🔗 more info</a>	Public talk

# Teaching

(Evaluations available upon request)

## Qualifications

2020 **University Teaching Qualification (BKO)** Leiden University

### Radboud University

- **Research Design in Political Science** *Ontwerp en Methoden van Politicologisch Onderzoek* 2025 - present  
course coordinator and lecturer · BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level
- **Comparative Politics: Democratization** with Carolien van Ham 2023 - present  
course lecturer · BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level
- **Advanced Research Methods** with Erika van Elsas 2022 - present  
course lecturer · MSc in Political Science · graduate level
- **Academic Skills for Political Scientists** *Academische Vaardigheden voor Politicologen* 2020 - present  
course coordinator (2021 - 2025) and seminar tutor · BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level
- **Introduction to Data Science for Social Scientists** with Michal Mochtak 2024 - present  
course lecturer · MSc in Political Science · graduate level
- **BSc Thesis supervision** number of students supervised: 9 2020 - 2024  
BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level
- **Comparative Research Methods** number of students supervised: 2 2024  
Research Master in Social Cultural Science · graduate level
- **Internship supervision** number of students supervised: 1 2023  
BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level
- **Introduction to R for PhD Candidates** 2022  
course lecturer · IMR Graduate School · PhD level
- **Explanations of Political Attitudes and Political Behavior in the Netherlands** 2021  
*Verklaringen van Politieke Houdingen en Politiek Gedrag in Nederland*  
seminar tutor · BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level

### Leiden University

- **Statistics** *Statistiek* 2020  
seminar tutor · BSc in Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Policy, Governance, and Organisation** *Beleid, Bestuur, en Organisatie* 2020  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Public Management and Organisations** *Publiek Management en Organisaties* 2020  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Public Management** *Publiek Management* 2020  
course lecturer and course coordinator · Pre-Master Public Administration
- **Organisational Theory** *Organisatietheorie* 2019  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Quantitative Methods** *Kwantitatieve Methoden* 2019  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Introduction to Social Scientific Research** *Inleiding Sociaal Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* 2019  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level
- **Public Administration and Administrative Sciences** *Openbaar Bestuur en Bestuurswetenschappen* 2019  
seminar tutor · BSc Public Administration · undergraduate level

## Skills

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<b>Programming</b>	R, $\LaTeX$ , Atlas.ti, Markdown, Qualtrics
<b>Methods</b>	Surveys, experiments, big data, quantitative text analysis, data visualisation, elite interviews
<b>Office Software</b>	MS Office, Adobe Creative Suite, Zotero, Obsidian
<b>Languages</b>	Dutch ( <i>mother tongue</i> ), English ( <i>fluent, C2</i> )
<b>Free time</b>	Marathon running, too-bad-for-words crime novels, classical music (cello)

## Professional Development

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### Grants

- 2025 **NWO Open Competition SSH-XS** €50.000 for the development of research into experimental deepfakes · research associate · [more info](#)
- 2024 **Hotspot Sustainable Democracy** €1.500 for experimental research
- 2023 **Erasmus+ Research Fellowship** €5.987 for research stay
- 2022 **ECPR Early Career Scholar Grant** approx. €2.000 for conference attendance

### Awards

- 2024 **PhD of the Year** Nijmegen School of Management

### Reviewer

Democratization, European Journal of Political Research, Acta Politica

## References

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- **prof. dr. Carolien van Ham** Chair of Empirical Political Science, Radboud University, Nijmegen, carolien.vanham@ru.nl
- **dr. Maurits Meijers** Research Professor of Political Science, University of Antwerp, maurits.meijers@ru.nl
- **prof. dr. Natasha Wunsch** Chair of European Studies, University of Fribourg, natasha.wunsch@unifr.ch