

Joep van Lit

Department of Political Science, Radboud University, Nijmegen

✉ joep.vanlit@ru.nl

Academic Positions

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

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

- 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

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

Working Papers

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

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

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** newline BSc in Political Science · undergraduate level 2020 - 2024
- **Comparative Research Methods** 2024
Research Master in Social Cultural Science · graduate level
- **Internship supervision** 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

Outreach and Valorisation

- **Public Talks** Debate and lecture at Arminius Debatcentrum [🔗](#) · Overheid van Nu (Dutch) [🔗](#) [📺](#) · European Strategic Dialogue [🔗](#) · Roundtable with the Permanent Committee on the Interior of the Dutch Parliament [🔗](#) · Wat is er KROM in je rechtsstaat? at Shift Talks [🔗](#) · Autocratic Backsliding at Grondfest [🔗](#)
- **Radboud Reflects** Voter or Capital: Who Defines Democracy? [🔗](#) · Equality according to Piketty and Sandel [🔗](#) · Trump, Musk, and DOGE [🔗](#) [📺](#) · Anti-democratic Politics in Europe [🔗](#) [📺](#) [📺](#)
- **News and interviews** Reuters [🔗](#) · Vrij Nederland [🔗](#)
- **Policy notes** Tegen democratische erosie: Samen scherp op inperking van maatschappelijke tegenmacht (Dutch) [🔗](#) · Duurzame democratie op het decentrale niveau (Dutch) [🔗](#) · Verkenning en verdieping democratische erosie en respons in Nederland (Dutch) [🔗](#)

Skills

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

Professional Development

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

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