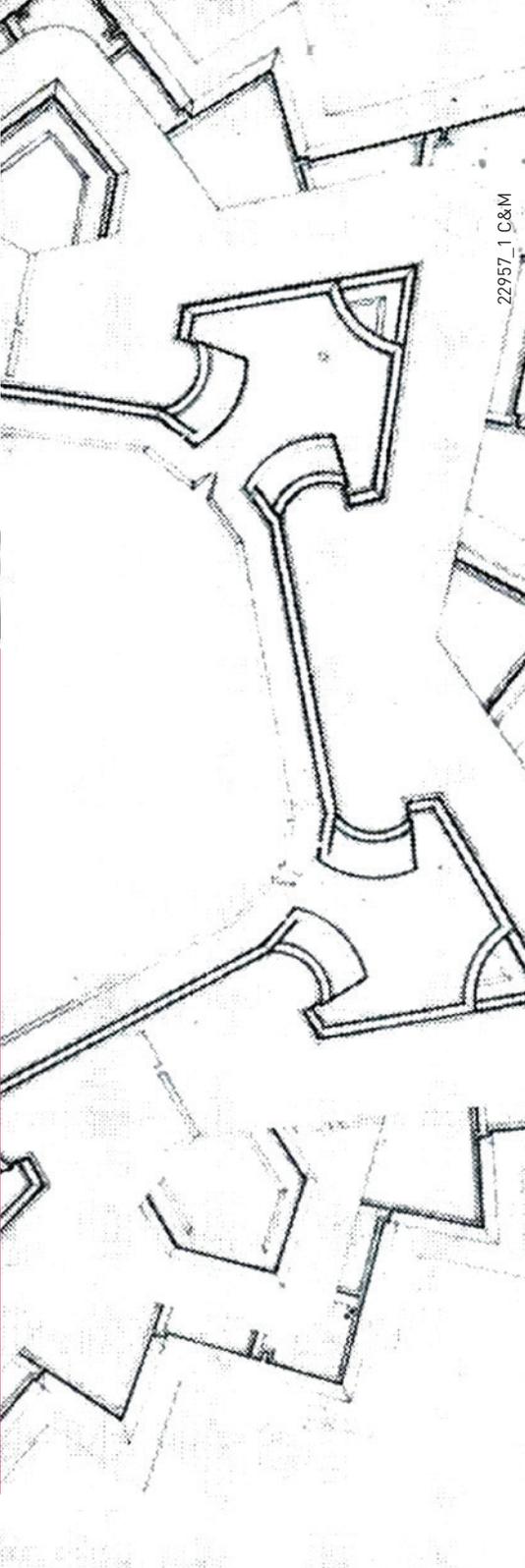


Simon Stevin

The Centre is named after the polymath Simon Stevin (1548-1620). Stevin developed a wide range of activities, in which knowledge and knowledge practices always played a central role. He not only advised Prince Maurice about fortifications and dyke building, he was also involved in the foundation of an engineering school in Leiden and he published on urban house construction. He advocated not only the use of decimal fractions, but also the use of the living Dutch instead of the dead Latin language. He occupied himself not only with mathematics, perspective and mechanics, but also with bookkeeping, accounting and music theory. He was concerned about the principles of good citizenship, and he expressed himself on the education of youth. An intense desire for the return to a peaceful and perfect society is manifest in several of his writings.



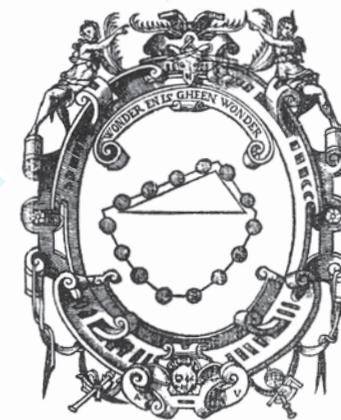
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OPENING SYMPOSIUM

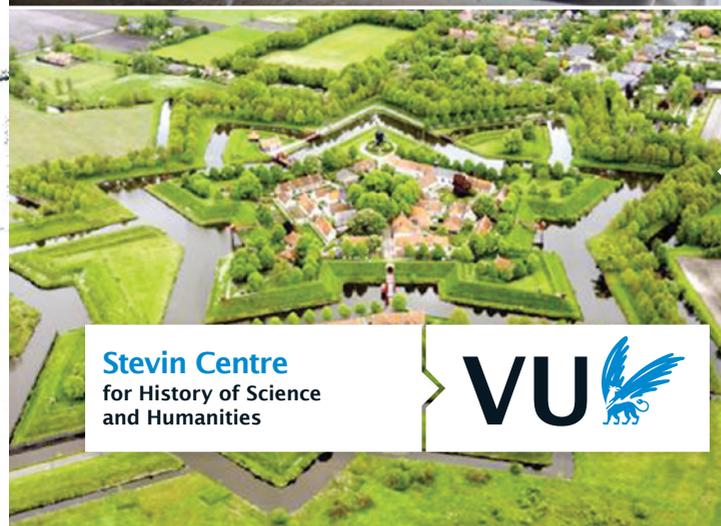
STEVIN CENTRE FOR HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

13.30 - 16.30, VU UNIVERSITY
MAIN BUILDING, ROOM: FILMZAAL PTHU
(1ST FLOOR, E-WING)



Simon Stevin



Stevin Centre
for History of Science
and Humanities



History of Science and Humanities at the VU University

At the VU it has traditionally been considered important to give students an introduction to the history of their discipline. The internationally renowned historian of science, Reijer Hooykaas, was appointed professor at the VU in 1946, which made the VU the first Dutch university that gave history of science a structural position, both in teaching and research. The significance attached to this subject has been confirmed again by giving the history of science a place in the so-called Academic Core of every bachelor education. In addition to philosophy of science such courses are deemed essential in the academic training of every student.

Mission statement of the Stevin Centre for History of Science and Humanities

Academic knowledge is an essential part of contemporary society. The VU University has traditionally attached great importance to courses in the history of academic knowledge as a contribution to the balanced education of its students. University-wide courses can clearly demonstrate the interaction between academic disciplines and of academia with society.

The Stevin Centre for History of Science and Humanities, a university-wide VU centre, will offer such courses. In addition it has formulated a common research theme entitled "*Knowledge Practices and Normativity within their Historical Context*". This theme has links with the research of most of the participants. The concept of science will be problematised, and the role of philosophical, normative, religious and legal aspects will be central in the historical analysis. The Stevin Centre aims at making its results available to the wider community and to achieve this it will organise activities for the VU community and special activities for particular groups.

Steering Committee

The steering committee consists of the Director, Prof. Ida Stamhuis (Faculty of Sciences) and the Members Prof. Karel Davids (Faculty of Arts/Faculty of Economics and Business Administration), Prof. Jan Hallebeek (Faculty of Law) and Dr. Henk de Regt (Faculty of Philosophy).

PROGRAMME

13.30 - 13.45	OPENING SPEECH Frank van der Duyn Schouten (rector magnificus VU)
13.45 - 14.00	HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES AT THE VU, FROM HOOYKAAS TO THE STEVIN CENTRE Ida Stamhuis (director Stevin Centre for History of Science and Humanities, VU)
14.00 - 14.15	THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE Wijnand Mijnhardt (former director Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, Utrecht University)
14.15 - 15.00	THE MANY USES OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE Hasok Chang (Cambridge University, UK)
15.00 - 15.30	TEA BREAK
15.30 - 15.50	EUCLID'S ELEMENTS AND THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY Marije Martijn (Faculty of Philosophy, VU)
15.50 - 16.10	REIJER HOOYKAAS AND THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE Ab Flipse (University Historian, VU)
16.10 - 16.30	SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND SOCIETY John Exalto (Faculty of Psychology and Education, VU)
16.30 - 17.30	DRINKS

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{Ask the hostesses in the Entrance Hall}
De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam

ADMISSION IS FREE, BUT PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO stevincentre@vu.nl