

HISTORY OF UNIVERSITIES SEMINAR | 1 JUNE 2022

**FROM ST ANDREWS, VIA COIMBRA, TO LEIDEN AND ONTO EDINBURGH: PROTESTANT TEACHING, SCHOLARS AND NETWORKS IN SCOTLAND AND THE DUTCH PROVINCES**

*Esther Mijers, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom*

This paper traces some of the early history of the Dutch Universities of Leiden and Groningen, from their founding in the middle of the Dutch Revolt against Spain until the middle of the seventeenth century, by which time they were established bulwarks of Protestant learning. The focus will be on the teaching of the core disciplines of philosophy and theology: what was taught, why and how, and by who? The Dutch, of necessity, drew on their contacts abroad, both from the Iberian scholarly framework which dominated their new Universities' early years and their Protestant friends and partners abroad, especially in Scotland. Their unique position, both historically and geographically, will be addressed before some tentative conclusions will be drawn on the relevance of the Dutch Revolt and the wider European Wars of Religion to the formation of the first two Dutch universities.

---

Dr Esther Mijers is Senior Lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh. She is the author of *'News from the Republic of Letters': Scottish Students, Charles Mackie and the United Provinces, 1650-1750* (Brill; Leiden 2012) and has published extensively on the intellectual and cultural relations between Scotland and the Dutch Republic in the seventeenth century. She is currently working on an intellectual and political biography of William Carstares and is developing a new project on the global history of the Scottish Staple at Veere. Contact: [E.Mijers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:E.Mijers@ed.ac.uk)

---

**History of Universities Seminar**

Convened by Miles Taylor (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), Ku-ming (Kevin) Chang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), Heike Jöns (Loughborough University, United Kingdom) and Tamson Pietsch (University of Technology Sydney, Australia). Hosted by the Humboldt University of Berlin on Zoom: <https://www.histgeog-uni.net/history-of-universities-seminar/>.