

Laura Vermeeren

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Work Experience

PhD candidate at research group "From Made in China to Created in China - A Comparative Study of Creative Practice and Production in Contemporary China"

January 2015- January 2019

University of Amsterdam

As part of the research group "ChinaCreative" at the University of Amsterdam, I research contemporary practices of creativity and calligraphy in China. I probe five different fields of contemporary practice in China: calligraphy education, water calligraphy, digital calligraphy, modern art and font design. I have conducted ethnographic fieldwork in all of these fields for a total of eleven months in Beijing and Hangzhou in 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Title of dissertation: *Contemporary Practices of Calligraphy*.

Teacher Global Media Cultures BA2

September- December 2017

University of Amsterdam

I taught two groups of BA2 students at the University of Amsterdam. This course focuses on interrelations between media and processes/conditions of globalization, such as transnational mobilities and flows, accelerations (and stoppages) of everyday life, global-local identity formations, aesthetic homogenization and difference, and the uneven geographies of global capitalism. In addressing these issues, the course pays particular attention to the increasing centrality of media to global systems of power and meaning.

Organiser International Workshop Cultural Analysis

October 2016- March 2017

University of Amsterdam

I was responsible for the complete organisation – from theoretical concept to organisation and practical execution – of an international workshop, in which academic presentations from various fields scrutinized the uselessness and usefulness of research, sustainability, design and mass production.

Co-organiser Conference "You Must Create? Boredom, Shanzhai and Digitization in the Time of 'Creative China'"

October 2015- April 2016

Hong Kong Baptist University

Co-responsible for the organisation and practical execution of an international academic conference on 'Boredom, Shanzhai and Digitization' in China.

Translator Chinese-Dutch of Chinese literature**2012-2018**

I translate – mainly short fiction– of Chinese authors such as Su Tong, Liao Yiwu, Murong Xuecun, Yu Hua en Bi Feiyu. The stories have been published by Publisher de Geus

Teacher Mandarin Chinese**January 2013- December 2014**

Elementary School The Parkschool, Utrecht

Chinese lessons to eight to twelve year old children. I developed the lesson concept and the implementation of the lessons. I created a syllabus in which I incorporated a combination of language skills, calligraphy, history lessons and creative assignments.

Chinese Speaking Education evaluator**January 2011- January 2012**

Nuffic

I issued the Nuffic certificate for Chinese students to study in the Netherlands. In addition, I was responsible for comparing and testing (international) educational systems, diplomas and professional qualifications, and valuing foreign diplomas in Dutch terms, as well as advising on student grants. I provided clear communication between DUO, Dutch universities and Chinese students and Chinese intermediary agencies.

MA Chinese Studies**2008-2010**

University of Leiden

Master thesis: *The Immortality Poetry of Guo Pu* (Publication in *Shilin*: September 2011)

Complete Scholarship Chinese language**2007-2008**

Beijing Language and Culture University

Scholarship obtained from OCW/NUFFIC and The China Scholarship Council

BA Chinese Language and Culture**2005-2008**

Universiteit Leiden

Bachelor Thesis: *The Chinese Blogosphere*

Academic Presentations**Vernacular Creativity and Calligraphy****3-5 October 2018**

Users Makers Dreamers: a Workshop on Vernacular Creativity
University of Amsterdam

Different Shades of Ink: contemporary calligraphy**7-8 September 2018**

ERC Summer School
University of Amsterdam

Beyond creative industries and high art – calligraphy in the everyday**29 August- 1 September 2018**

European Association for Chinese Studies Conference
University of Glasgow, Scotland

Digital calligraphy and embodiment**27-29 June 2018**

NECS Media tactics and engagement Conference

University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

“We are not like the calligraphers of ancient times” – A study of young calligraphy practitioners in contemporary China 9-10 June 2018
Workshop Youth Cultures
University of Brussels, Belgium

Everyday Calligraphy- New Surfaces New Bodies 26-27 March 2018
Creative Bodies - Creative Minds
University of Graz, Austria

Digital Calligraphy 28-30 July 2017
IACS Conference 2017
SungKongHoe University, Seoul

Evaporating Aesthetics – Water Calligraphy in Beijing 11-12 January 2017
Oxford Humanities Graduate Conference
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Ephemeral legibility in Beijing 20-24 June 2016
ESSCS Summerschool on Legibility
University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Water Calligraphy in Beijing 20-22 May, 2016
The 10th International Conference on Chinese Writing and Calligraphy Education
Emory University, Atlanta, USA

Water Calligraphy in Beijing 7-9 April 2017
You Must Create? Boredom, *Shanzhai* and Digitization in the Time of ‘Creative China’
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Academic Publications

- Article publication in Peer Reviewed Journal *Concentric: Chinese Calligraphy in the Digital Realm: Aesthetic Perfection and Remediation of the Authentic* (2017)
- Book Chapter: *Evaporating Ennui – Water Calligraphy in Beijing* in *Boredom, Shanzhai and Digitization in the Time of Creative China* at Amsterdam University Press (forthcoming in 2019)
- Book chapter: *We are not like the calligraphers of ancient times – A study of young calligraphy practitioners in contemporary China* in *China's Youth Cultures and Collective Spaces* at Routledge (co-authored with Prof. J. de Kloet, forthcoming in 2019)

Languages

Dutch: Native speaker **English:** excellent **Mandarin:** Good **Hungarian:** basic **German:** basic

Interests

I am interested in Chinese visual culture, media studies, creativity studies, Chinese studies, digital media.