



# Biographical Approach of History (Research Seminar)

## General information

Biography is increasingly enjoying considerable interest both inside and outside academia. Why is that and what is the role of biographies in academic and public debates? This course provides an introduction to various theoretical approaches that can be distinguished within Biography Studies. Students are expected to study theoretical literature and discuss this literature in presentations, as well as biographies and biographical studies selected in consultation with the lecturer. Although the general approach of the course is interdisciplinary, the emphasis will be on the historical approach. Students are expected to write a paper based on one of the provided subjects.

# Our students

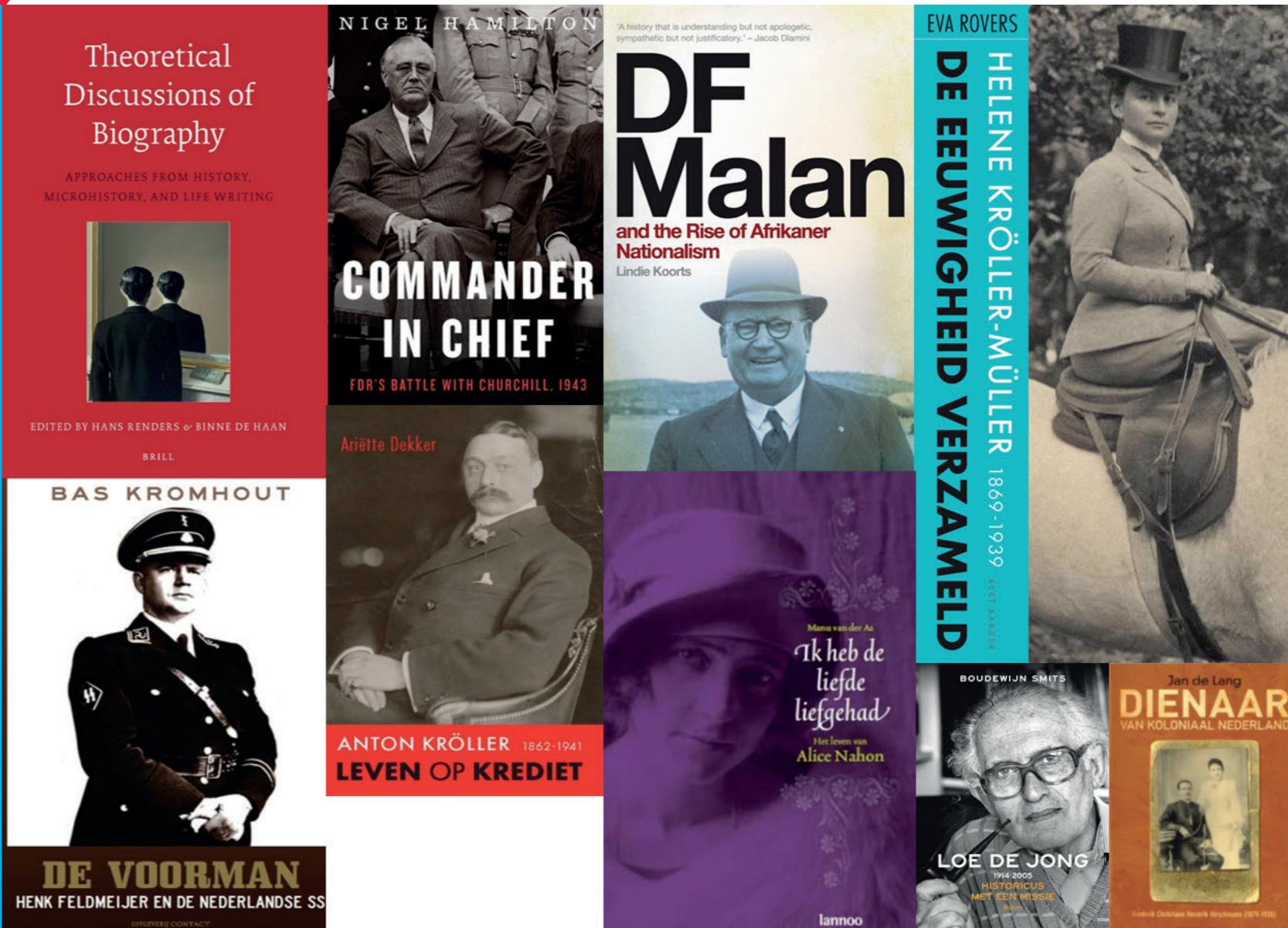
- have a fascination for biographies and biographical research
  - are eager to learn about biography in an international comparative perspective
  - will execute theoretical research based on biographical praxis
  - will be educated in applying a historical perspective with regard to cultural topics
  - receive the opportunity to write a theoretically accountable proposal for a biography

## Why choose us?

'Thus far, biography has not been taken seriously in the academic world. Except in Groningen, where has been established the Biography Institute, that is unequalled in the world.'  
(Biographer Nigel Hamilton, in the Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant*, 4 May 2016)

## Career prospects

- Press/journalism/media
  - Publishing houses
  - Scientific evaluations: assessing research and funding proposals
  - Research institutes
  - Non-fiction writing



## Key Facts

- Start: 1 September
  - Duration: 6 months
  - Biography Institute, University of Groningen
  - Part of the Research Centre for Historical Studies
  - Fee contract students: €400

## Admissions

bsz.let@rug.nl

## Study Advisor

Prof Hans Renders

Hans Renders  
j.w.renders@rug.nl



university of  
groningen

faculty of arts

## How to enroll

You can enroll on ProgRESS, which automatically will enroll you on Nestor.  
Course code: LLS026M10.

Contract students can enroll by filling in the form on this page: [www.rug.nl/let/opencolleges](http://www.rug.nl/let/opencolleges)

This form then should be printed, signed and send by e-mail to [biografie.instituut@rug.nl](mailto:biografie.instituut@rug.nl)  
and by postal mail to:  
RUG - Faculteit der Letteren  
Bureau Studentzaken  
Postbus 716  
9700 AS Groningen

For more information please contact  
Bureau Studentzaken (050 363 6050 / [bsz.let@rug.nl](mailto:bsz.let@rug.nl)) or the  
Biography Institute (050 363 5816 / 050 363 9069 / [biografie.instituut@rug.nl](mailto:biografie.instituut@rug.nl))

## Information Open colleges

[www.rug.nl/let/opencolleges](http://www.rug.nl/let/opencolleges)

## Admission

Admission interview with the study advisor, Prof. Hans Renders

### Student Joline de Groot

'The course unit provided new and informative ways for conducting research in history, more specifically the biographical approach of history. Also the format in which the paper has to be presented, in the format of an article, was a new way of writing for me, which was very instructive. It was an inspiring and interactive course which challenged the students to enter discussion and pose questions. The professor is very helpful in setting out examples and devoting a lot of time to help out students with questions.'

