

## University of Groningen

### ADHD and the power of generalization

te Meerman, Sanne

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## About the Author

Sanne te Meerman was born in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, in 1975. As his family provided foster care for many years, he developed an interest in psychology at an early age. However, in his first year as a psychology student he felt he found little answers and was struck by the impact of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM), both on himself and on his fellow students. After switching to sociology and working in ICT for a couple of years, he picked up a fascination for open source software and worked as an advisor in this area for some time. In the following years he watched the rising impact and the apparent lens that the DSM seemed to provide for explaining children's behavior, for instance as he became a sailing-instructor for socially deprived children. When, in 2010, he studied for an additional master's degree in educational sciences, he became aware of the dominance the DSM classifications had gained over the years and the impact it had on children's lives. After graduation he decided not to pursue a career in teaching but wrote a research proposal which he presented to Laura Batstra, who had been doing research for several years in relation to ADHD and the medicalization of behavior. He helped Laura with founding [www.drukendwars.nl](http://www.drukendwars.nl), an organization that aims to provide care to families and teachers without the need for a DSM-classification and helps organize inclusive children's parties. He is currently working at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences where he continues to work for Druk & Dwars and also contributes to an academic workplace to improve psycho-education about restlessness, concentration problems and the ADHD construct.

### *Publications:*

**Te Meerman, S.**, Batstra, L., Grietens, H., & Frances, A. (2017). ADHD: a critical update for educational professionals. *International journal of qualitative studies on health and well-being*, 12(sup1), 1298267.

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Batstra, L., **Te Meerman, S.**, Conners, K., & Frances, A. (2017). Subcortical brain volume differences in participants with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children and adults. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 4(6), 439.

**Te Meerman, S.** (2018). Binnenkort heeft iedereen ADHD. Over reïficatie en bijgeloof. GGZTotaal, Mei, pp. 20-23.

**Te Meerman, S.** (2017). Reificatie: hoe het ADHD concept onderwijs dreigt te verarmen. GGZTotaal, November, pp. 8-13.

Foget, L.E., Van Haeringen, C.J. **Te Meerman, S.**, Batstra, L. (2017). *Wat leert de jeugd van educatieve kinderboeken en ADHD?* Orthopedagogiek: Onderzoek en Praktijk, 56 (9-10), 170-182409 (september-oktober 2017).

### **About the artist & artwork**

Johnny Kortlever is a Dutch artist who likes to work with different materials and techniques. He graduated at Minerva Art School in 2002 and is based in Berlin since 2005. His work usually begins with a flash of inspiration, then the translation of the idea to the most suitable material. These materials include clay, wood, drawing materials, bronze and even bread from healthy full grain dough. He is currently doing a master's degree in 'art in context' at the University of art (UdK), and he focuses on projects on art with children and educators and works of art in public spaces.

*Artwork:*

**'Kopflastig'**, 2008, wood and bronze. (Chapter title pages). Private collection

**'Vampyrette Deluxe'**, 2002, mixed materials. (Cover). Private collection

**'Hout Couture'**, 2003, wood and iron. (Acknowledgments). Private collection

