

Elle Zwinkels MA

She/her/hers | Utrecht, the Netherlands | e.zwinkels@uu.nl | [LinkedIn](#) | [UU staff page](#)

Profile

I am a PhD candidate in cultural sociology and media studies within The Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG). My PhD research revolves around the role of digital mobile media in how contemporary trans and/or queer individuals experience the music events they attend. My research interests include music performance, popular media and culture, and trans feminisms. Writing, creative thinking, debating, navigating complex theory, scheduling, organizing, and connecting; these are skills that I can contribute.

Education

Utrecht University | RMA Media, Art and Performance Studies (cum laude) 2022-2024

- Thesis title: From Trans* Impasse to Affective Passing: Exploring Gender Identification In and Through Fictional Performance (9/10).
 - Supervisor: prof. dr. Maaïke Bleeker.
- Notable courses: Gender, Art, and Activism / Play, Perform, Participate / Corporeal Literacy

Utrecht University | MA Gender Studies (cum laude) 2021-2022

- Thesis (shortlisted for Humanities Thesis Award 2023): "Suddenly Seymour: The Girl That's Inside You": Voice, Gender, and Trans* in Musical Theater (9,5/10).
 - Supervisor: dr. Eva Hayward.
- Notable courses: Somatechnics / Art and Affect

NOG | Noise Summer School 2021

- Borders, Boundaries and the Politics of Belonging. Feminist Digital Cartographies.

Utrecht University | Graduate Honours Interdisciplinary Programme 2021-2022

- Notable courses: Public Order, Safety and Security / International Migration

Utrecht University | BA Media and Culture 2017-2021

- Major: theater and dance studies
- Minor: gender studies
- Thesis: THE BLACK WOMAN HAS HER EYES ON YOU: a performance analysis of the character Angelica Schuyler in Hamilton through the Oppositional Gaze (9/10).
 - Supervisor: dr. Laura Karreman.

Additional Training:

- Utrecht University | Inclusion and Social Safety training 2024
- UU Centre for Academic Teaching | Start to Teach course 2024
- Firm Ground | Digital Accessibility Course 2022

Career Summary

University of Groningen | PhD Candidate

May 2026 – currently

- PhD in cultural sociology and media studies.

Utrecht University | Junior researcher “Geefcultuur”

Sept. 2025 – May 2026

- Researching the relationships between cultural organizations, their private donors, and civil servants within three municipalities in the province of Utrecht. Analyzing qualitative data from in-depth interviews.

Utrecht University | Lecturer

Sept. 2024 – July 2025

- Teaching courses in the BA Media en cultuur and BA Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen.
- Managing internal and external organization and communication, organizing and hosting events.

Utrecht University | Assistant [urban interfaces] and Open Cities Platform

Nov. 2022 – May 2026

- Managing internal and external organization, writing monthly newsletters and additional PR, attending meetings, and assisting academics with tasks where needed.

Utrecht University | Student employee Communications and Marketing

Nov. 2022 – May 2024

- Producing new student experiences in both text and video format for all BA programs of the Faculty of Humanities. Tasks include interviewing students/alumni, writing testimonials, organizing and managing shoot days, and refurbishing the UU website with these experiences. [Click for an example.](#)

Knowledge Hub Patronage Studies | Research intern

Sept. 2023 – Feb. 2024

- Performing a discourse analysis on qualitative data to allow for productive interdisciplinary collaborations aligning with the UU Open Science initiative without neglecting humanistic modes of inquiry.
- Final research titled: “Qualitative Data Ontology and Exchange: A Disciplinary Crossroads in Open Science” (9,5/10). Supervisors: prof. dr. Helleke van den Braber and prof. dr. Nanna Verhoeff.
- Additional tasks included writing blogs, producing a privacy statement, and meeting with experts.

Utrecht University | Minute taker Curriculum Committee

Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022

- Taking minutes for the Curriculum Committee MA Arts and Culture.

Utrecht University | Unibuddy ambassador

Apr. 2018 – Aug. 2022

- Helping potential (international) students by answering their questions about the BA Media and Culture and the MA Gender Studies and writing blog posts for the network.

Transgender Netwerk | Research intern

Jan. 2022 – Apr. 2022

- Quantitative data analysis on the representations of transgender individuals featured in the Dutch online media landscape of 2021 to produce TNN's annual Mediamonitor in collaboration with fellow interns.
- Supervisors: dr. Elise van Alphen and dr. Eva Hayward

Study association AKT | Board secretary

Jul. 2019 – Sept. 2020

- Taking minutes, keeping the calendar up to date, processing all mail, taking care of members administration, making the monthly newsletter, and keeping in touch with employees from Utrecht University.

Teaching experience

Title	ECTS points	Student numbers	Level	Role	Form	Years taught
Introduction to Theatre and Dance	7,5	50	BA	Lecturer	Lecture/seminar	2025
Media en Maatschappij	7,5	50	BA	Lecturer	Lecture/seminar	2025
Wetenschapsfilosofie	7,5	23	BA	Lecturer	Lecture/seminar	2024
Inleiding Media en Communicatie	7,5	40	BA	Lecturer	Lecture/seminar	2024
Vertellen en Verbeelden	7,5	20	BA	Lecturer	Lecture/seminar	2024
Creative Urban Methods seminar session 2	1	15	MA/PhD	Lecturer	Seminar	2023

Publications

Academic publications

- Zwinkels, Elle. Forthcoming. “Suddenly Seymour: The Girl That’s Inside You’: Voice, Gender, and Trans* in Musical Theater.” *Women and Performance: a Journal of Feminist Theory*.
- In peer review: Zwinkels, Elle. “‘Poor, Unfortunate’ Female! On Androphonia.” *Junctions: Graduate Journal of the Humanities*.
- In peer review: Zwinkels, Elle. “(Trans-)Empirical Gender: Thinking Perceptibility through *Pokémon*.” *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*.
- Part of editing team: Merx, Sigrid, Coco Kanters, Michiel de Lange, and Nanna Verhoeff, eds. “Creative Urban Methods.” In *Mediapolis* (2023). <https://www.mediapolisjournal.com/dossier-creative-urban-methods/>

Semi-academic and professional publications

- Zwinkels, Elle. 2025. “On Difference and Sameness in Wicked.” Substack. <https://ellezwinkels.substack.com/p/on-difference-and-sameness-in-wicked?r=cciwbb>.
- Zwinkels, Elle. Kunstfotografie en belastingvermindering. *Kennispunt Mecenaatstudies*. Published January 17, 2024. <https://mecenaatstudies.sites.uu.nl/2024/01/17/blog-kunstfotografie-en-belastingvermindering/>.
- Zwinkels, Elle. “Patreon-crowdfunding en tegenprestaties van YouTubers.” *Kennispunt Mecenaatstudies*. Published December 11, 2023. <https://mecenaatstudies.sites.uu.nl/2023/12/11/patreon-crowdfunding-en-tegenprestaties-van-youtubers/>.
- Zwinkels, Elle. “Geefrelaties en (anti-)Protestantisme in Armide.” *Kennispunt Mecenaatstudies*. Published November 2024, 2023. <https://mecenaatstudies.sites.uu.nl/2023/11/24/geefrelaties-en-anti-protestantisme-in-armide/>.
- Zwinkels, Elle. “Professionalisme en mecenaat: de economische diversiteit aan vrouwelijke schrijvers in vroegmodern Europa.” *Kennispunt Mecenaatstudies*. Published October 11, 2023. <https://mecenaatstudies.sites.uu.nl/2023/10/11/professionalisme-en-mecenaat-de-economische-diversiteit-aan-vrouwelijke-schrijvers-in-vroegmodern-europa/>.
- Zwinkels, Elle. “De vrouw als mecenas: het vermogen om te kunnen geven.” *Kennispunt Mecenaatstudies*. Published September 23, 2023. <https://mecenaatstudies.sites.uu.nl/2023/09/23/de-vrouw-als-mecenas-het-vermogen-om-te-kunnen-geven/>.

- Zwinkels, Elle, Grey Ravelli, and Otje van der Mark. "Mediamonitor 2021: Zichtbaarder, Bespreekbaarder, Kwetsbaarder." Amsterdam: Transgender Netwerk Nederland, 2022.

Presentations and talks

Conference presentations

- "Deception or Mis/recognition? Toward Affective Passing." Moving Humanities Conference, forthcoming.
- "Deception or Mis/recognition? Toward Affective Passing." BSLS Winter Symposium: Alternate Histories of the Body, 2026.
- "'Poor, Unfortunate Female! On Androphonia.'" Humanities Graduate School Conference. Utrecht: Utrecht University, 2025.
- "Qualitative Data and Critical Openness in UU Open Science." Open Science on Track Day. Utrecht: Utrecht University, 2023.
- "Playing with Gendered Vocal Performance. The Cost of Intentional Ambiguity." Power, Performance, & Play symposium. West Lafayette: Purdue University, 2023.

Invited talks

- "Session 4: Topics, Questions, Problems: Exploring Thesis Ideas Part II." Invited guest to the course *Doing Gender II* of the MA Gender Studies taught by dr. Adriano Habed to discuss my thesis in 2022-2025.
- "Week 6: THEORY AND METHOD." Invited guest to the course *MAPS Research Lab* of the RMA Media, Art and Performance Studies (cohort 2023-2025) taught by dr. Laura Karreman to discuss my MA Gender Studies thesis.

Awards

- Shortlisted for Humanities Thesis Award 2023 – elected as representative of department of Media and Culture Studies.

Selected services and memberships

- Peer reviewer *Junctions: Graduate Journal for the Humanities* (2023-now).
- Volunteer Serve the City Utrecht (2021-now).
- Student member Interview Committee for Full Professor in Performance and Society (2024).
- Student member Interview Committee for Full Professor in Media, Literacy and Public Engagement (2023).
- Member Raad van Advies Study association AKT (2020-2022).

Selected organizational work

- The Risky City: [urban interfaces] graduate seminar 2025-2026
- Open Cities Reading Circle: Trans*ness and Cities

- [Open Cities Reading Circle: Reading for Sudan](#) (with dr. Nermin Elsherif)
- [Open Cities Reading Circle: Reading for Palestina](#) (with dr. Nermin Elsherif)
- [Crisis, Gender, and Urban Space: Lecture and masterclass with Dr. Selda Tuncer](#) (with dr. Marlene Schäfers)
- [\[urban interfaces\] x OCP x GDS: Roundtable Creative Urban Methods](#) (with [urban interfaces])
- Creative Urban Methods: [urban interfaces] graduate seminar 2022-2023

Skills

Dutch	Mother tongue
English	Excellent
German	Basic
French	Basic
Spanish	Basic