

MASTER TRACK: Theory and History of Psychology

Master Week 2024

Annette Mülberger
Jeremy Burman
 Maarten Derksen
 Ole Gmelin
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Theory and History of Psychology

Our aim is to understand why psychology became the way it is, how it has been understood, how it negotiates its boundaries with other allied sciences, and how it could be improved.

We focus on the social, methodological, philosophical, and conceptual issues that underlie contemporary psychology.

We will introduce you to a broader range of concepts, literature, and research methods to help you to identify and ask the most exciting and urgent questions, and also discover new ways to consider them by looking at history, philosophy, public understanding, and sociology of science.

In short: this is a programme for those who want to explore beyond statistical analyses of quantitative data and learn about the various historical, cultural, and qualitative alternatives to the standard set of approaches in contemporary scientific psychology. **(Is that you?)**

About the THP master track

The only English-taught master in Europe dedicated to the theory and history of psychology

Supported by a team of specialists in the field

Education focused on active learning in seminars, discussions (online and in-person), via peer review (including experimenting with AI), and via one-on-one supervision

Strong emphasis on communication skills: writing and presenting as ways to discipline thinking

Interested in thinking *beyond* disciplinary norms, sometimes drawing on other disciplines:

- What is behind all the theories and 'established facts' you have learned?
- Why is the field the way it is? (Is it natural? Merely convenient? The result of popularization?)
- Is it the way it should be? How could it be improved?

THP in more detail

Two core courses, 10 EC total

- Conceptual Issues in Psychology
- Boundaries of Psychology

Two skills/methods courses, 10 EC total

- Writing Skills
- Qualitative Research Methods

Two elective courses, 10 EC total

- Two of your choice, in consultation (perhaps drawing from our recommendations)

Internship (10 EC)—e.g., with the Wikimedia Foundation (but others are possible too)

Master's thesis (20 EC)—a penultimate draft of a journal article in THP style

- Have a look at the primary journals in your area for examples
- Qualitative projects need ethics approvals so you can quote your interviewees
(This isn't a problem, but it can take time: start asap if you think you want to interview!)

Schedule for Psychology Master students (start September 2023)

Name: Master track: THP: Theory & History of Psychology

Student nr.: Email address (RUG):
Note: Check your university email address regularly: this address is being used for all electronic communications with students!

	Academic year 2023-2024			
	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year) Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	PSEMRI-10: Master internship Thesis revision

- The THP master is a one-year programme that comprises 60 EC, and the Heymans Institute assumes a schedule of 15 ec per block (i.e. 420 hours per block).
- Electives are not restricted to BSS. THP students routinely follow courses from Philosophy or Arts, but this needs permission and confirmation from the Examinations Committee. If you are interested in the "Reflecting on Science and Integrity" course from the BSS ReMa, speak with the THP master coordinator.
- Internships can be taken at any time if you have made special arrangements. This schedule is a suggestion, using the default THP placement with Wikimedia. (If you make your own arrangements, the required 280 hours could be spread out across several blocks.)
- Submit this form to the coordinator of your master track after the starting event.

In agreement with the programme coordinator, _____
(signature) (coordinator signature) (date)

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Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
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Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology 14 hours/week		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology 14 hours/week	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills 7 hours/week 7 hours/week			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods 14 hours/week		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices]	[many choices]	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year)			PSEMRI-10: Master internship
	Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	Thesis revision

Your thesis is expected to take 560 hours total
All internships are expected to take 280 hours total

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	semester I		semester II	
	Block 1A	Block 1B	Block 2A	Block 2B
Foundation courses (2 x 5 EC)	PSMRB: Conceptual Issues in Psychology		PSMPK: Boundaries of Psychology	
Skills course (1 x 5 EC)	PSMRV: Writing Skills			
Methods course (1 x 5 EC)		GMREMA02: Qualitative Research Methods		
Electives (2 x 5 EC)	[many choices] Elective 1?	[many choices] Elective 2?	[few choices]	[very few choices]
Master thesis/Master Internship (20+10 EC)	PSEMRT-20: Master thesis (all year)			PSEMRI-10: Master internship
	Thesis proposal	Thesis reading	Thesis draft	Thesis revision



This year's cohort picked these electives

From BSS:

- › Political psych
- › Neuropsych & psychiatric disorders
- › Evidence based interventions
- › Education for a better world

From philosophy:

- › Philosophy of neuroscience x2
- › Philosophy of language
- › Social epistemology of science
- › Kant



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In previous years, students have also followed courses in Arts and Theology. If you find courses elsewhere that fit with your thesis research, we can often get permission. (Look especially at the Exchange list: these are set-up to take visiting students.)

Something new we're working on: "tracks"

"Neuro-law" (with Schleim—currently on sick leave)

- › RGASR90306: Law and Psychiatry (1a) - Dutch only, 6 ECTS
- › FI184FR: Phil of Neuroscience (1b) or FI224AA: Autonomy, Authenticity, and the Brain (2b)

Epistemology

- › FI244FE: Feminist Epistemology (2a) or FI214SE: Social Epistemology of Science (2b)
- › GMREMA06: Reflecting on Science and Integrity (1a in Year 2)—special permission needed

Education policy

- › PAMAY204: DMCP: using Research to improve Policy and Practice (1b)
- › PAYMENT107: Participation and Policy (2a)

Also: a word about the "Philosophy and Science" dual master

Another (new) possibility for electives

Although summer schools (and winter schools) are often intended for PhD students, it's sometimes possible to get permission to enroll

When these grant ECTS credits, these can be an exciting way to learn more about your topic—while also meeting students from across Europe

If the summer school that interests you offers fewer than 5 ECTS credits, then we can sometimes supplement this with a Reading Course

Offerings change every year: check the [winter listing](#) and [summer listing](#)



Work on your thesis starts at the beginning

Independent research project under supervision of a member of THP staff, as well as regular participation in the THP Forum

- Aug/Sept/Jan/Feb discuss and choose electives, meet supervisors
- Sep/Oct/Feb/March choose supervisor and narrow in on thesis topic
- Oct/Nov/March/April develop research proposal with your supervisor
- Dec/Jan/May/June present your ideas at the THP forum & discuss
- March/April/Aug/Sept share a full draft with your supervisor for feedback
- June (ish) Nov (ish) **final thesis should be submitted for grading**

Be certain that your supervisor is not planning to be at a conference, or on holiday, in the period right after your intended submission date



A word about the internship

- Meant as a professionalizing experience outside the university
- Ideally with a supervisor who is familiar with academic concerns, to help you bridge between your studies and your career
- **You are only expected to find an internship position by yourself if** you choose not to follow one of the placements we have already set up...
 - THP default is Wikimedia Foundation with Dr Alice White (PhD in History from Kent), with whom I will arrange a meeting so you can ask questions
- If you choose to use your own network to find a placement (in e.g., science communication, journal editing, policy advising, etc.), please contact the THP internship coordinator asap: [Jeremy Burman](#)



After your master

We are presently doing a systematic study of recent alumni, and discovering that **many** graduates have gone on to do PhDs in several different disciplines

Other alumni, who aren't academics or researchers, work in fields such as:

- Psychologist/Coach
- Consulting (e.g., at McKinsey)
- Government (policy advisor)
- NGOs (policy advisor, science communicator)
- Journalism (science journalist) and Publishing (editor)
- Teaching (history or social sciences teacher)

Some students also choose to do the THP master in parallel with another, such as "Philosophy and Science" (together, a "European Master")



Background about the staff, for reference

Some basic information about the interests of potential supervisors

You are welcome to email any of us with questions

THPpers are required to attend our colloquium series: the THP Forum (To be added to the mailing list early, email m.derksen@rug.nl)

Not everyone will be able join us, but you can have the slides as a reference



Prof. Dr. Annette Mülberger

President of the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences (x2)

Histories of the human mind and its discipline (19th and 20th century)

- Early experimental and applied psychology
- Criminology and juridical psychology
- Practices of psychological testing and measurement
- Crisis debates in psychology
- Boundaries of science and the history of spiritualism

Mülberger, A. (2014). The need for contextual approaches to the history of mental testing. *History of Psychology*, 17(3), 177-186.
 Mülberger, A. (2020). *Biographies of a Scientific Subject: The Intelligence Test*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Psychology.
 Mülberger, A. (2022). Early experimental psychology: How did Replication work before P-hacking? *Review of General Psychology*, 26(2), 131-145.



Dr. Jeremy Burman

President of the American Psychological Association Division for History, 2024-2026
 Fellow of the APA (History 26 & Developmental 7)

Histories of developmental psychology & constructive epistemology (20th century history)

- Jean Piaget and the "Geneva Circle" (incl. Beth, Apostel, Ladrière, Gonseth, Wavre, etc.)
- Cold War Americanization of European thought (e.g., Kuhn, Quine's naturalized epistemology)
- Historical appeals to the "new biology" to inform psych theory (esp. Waddington's epigenetics)

Popularization, translation, and meaning-change (20th century and contemporary philosophy)

- How "meaning" develops and moves, and how that movement can be formally described
- What digital methods can't do, and yet how they can still aid topic selection

Burman, J. T. (2022). Meaning-change through the mistaken mirror: On the indeterminacy of "Wundt" and "Piaget" in translation. *Review of General Psychology*, 26(1), 22-48.
 Burman, J. T., Young, J. L., & Ratcliff, M. J. (in press). Indeterminacy and the Role of the Archive: The Eight Extensions of Piaget's Sociological Studies. *Review of General Psychology*

Dr. Maarten Derksen

Science & Technology Studies

- Social technology and “human engineering” (award winning book in 2017 from Cambridge University Press)

History of Social Science (20th century and contemporary)

- The discussion of replication in contemporary psychology and the crisis of confidence
- Scientific rhetoric: tact and the role, in science, of “conversations”

Also a strong advocate for the use of Qualitative Methods in Psychology

Derksen, M. & Field, S. (2022). The tone debate: Knowledge, self, and social order. *Review of General Psychology*, 26(2), 172-183.

Derksen, M. & Morawski, J. (2022). Kinds of replication: Examining the meanings of “conceptual replication” and “direct replication.” *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 17(5), 1490-1505.

Derksen, M., & Morawski, J. (2024). Replications are informative, particularly when they fail. *Theory & Psychology*, 34(5), 597-603.

Derksen, M., Meirmans, S., Brenninkmeijer, J., Pols, J., de Boer, A., van Eyghen, H., ... de Winter, J. (in press). Replication studies in the Netherlands: Lessons learned and recommendations for funders, publishers and editors, and universities. *Accountability in Research*, 1–19.

Dr. Ole Gmelin

Co-chair of Qualitative Research Methods Group

Founder of the new LGBTQ+ centre of expertise at BSS

Qualitative and Mixed Methods and their use in the Social Sciences

Science identity development via Open Science practices

The function of reflexivity and positionality in Qualitative Research Methods articles

New PhD recently hired to study the development of research identities

Gmelin, J-O. H. & Kunnen, E. S. (2021). Iterative micro-identity content analysis: Studying identity development within and across real-time interactions. *Identity*, 21(4), 324-340.

Gmelin, J-O. H. et al. (2022). Increased risks for mental disorders among LGB individuals: Cross-national evidence from the World Mental Health surveys. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 57, 2319-2332.

De Ruiter, N. M. P., & Gmelin, J. O. H. (2021). What Is Real about “Real Time” Anyway? A Proposal for A Pluralistic Approach to Studying Identity Processes across Different Timescales. *Identity*, 21(4), 289–308.

Dr. Stephan Schleim

Research on the interaction between science and society, esp. between psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry, and the law (neuroenhancement, neurolaw)

Also very active in public engagement (esp. in German newspapers, radio, TV)

Schleim, S. & Quednow, B. B. (2018). How realistic are the scientific assumptions of the neuroenhancement debate? Assessing the pharmacological optimism and neuroenhancement prevalence hypotheses. *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, 9(3), 1-7.

Schleim, S. (2020). Real neurolaw in the Netherlands: The role of the developing brain in the new adolescent criminal law. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11.

Schleim, S. (2023). *Mental health and enhancement: Substance use and its social implications*. Palgrave Macmillan

Our community of PhD students who you may encounter

Welmoed Ekster: "Culture as cognition theory" (Barend van Heusden/Merlin Donald)

Camilo Garzón: Spiritualism, psychical research, and science in Latin America (1870-1930)

Jochem Noordberger: History and theory of psychotherapy (while working as a GGZ-registered clinical psych)

Génesis Nuñez: Intelligence at school (Spain, 1900-1936)

Haris Psaros: "Science, technology, and human nature: Exploring their entanglement through the prism of psychology"

Violeta Ruiz: "La gran neurosis": Neurasthenia and the crisis of modern selfhood in Spain, c.1890-1923"

Gonzalo Salas: "Psychological itineraries: Women in education in Chile (1854-1928)"

Sara Serrano: The concept and practices of expertise in the Spanish criminal procedure (1930-1960)

Marije ten Den: Investigating Piaget's new theory (in collab with Developmental Psych dept)

Rinske Vermeij: Archival investigations of Heymans' special psychology and its uses

Recently finished

Anouk de Kleijn: "The decisive book at the right moment: personal and motivating literature education"

Frederik Boven: History of autism, esp. Frankl (1897-1975), Asperger (1906-1980) and Kanner (1894-1981)

Supplemental meetings to consider

- › THP Forum: **required for cohort starting Sept '24**—email Maarten
- › THP Writing Days: **encouraged for everyone**—email Ole
- › Dutch Expertise Centre for Theory & History of Education and Psychology—see the [DEEP website](#)
- › P&S colloquium series—I'll email Markus Eronen for an update
- › History of experience colloquium series—I'll email James Kennaway

Please tell me if you find any other interesting aligned meetings

Bachelor courses for those considering THP

- › 1-2b. History of Psych—in both Dutch & English (Derksen & Mülberger)
- › 2-2b. Theory of science—in both Dutch & English (Derksen)
- › 3-1a. Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (Gmelin)
- › 3-1a. Controversies in Psychology (Mülberger)
- › 3-1b. Philosophy of Psychology (Gmelin & Burman)
- › 3-2b. Brain, Consciousness and Society (Burman & Gmelin)

Also, at UCG

- › 3-2a. Philosophical Foundations of Psychology (Gmelin)

Q & A

Email addresses

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Jeremy Burman (j.t.burman@rug.nl)

Maarten Derksen (m.derksen@rug.nl)

Ole Gmelin (j.h.gmelin@rug.nl)

Stephan Schleim (s.schleim@rug.nl)