

Melvin Wevers

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The Netherlands

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## Academic Positions

**Lab Director**, CANAL AI Lab, University of Amsterdam, NL, Jan 2022--Present

**Research Fellow**, International Academia on Artificial Intelligence, Paris & Belo Horizonte, 2021-2022

**Assistant Professor Digital History (permanent contract)**, University of Amsterdam, NL, Aug 2020--Present

**Postdoctoral Researcher**, DHLab, KNAW Humanities Cluster, Amsterdam, NL, Oct 2017--Jul 2020

**Researcher in Residence**, National Library of the Netherlands, the Hague, NL, Summer 2017

**Invited Research Fellow**, Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, Spring 2016

**Visiting Researcher**. British Library Digital Labs, London, UK, Spring 2015

## Relevant Work Experience

**Project Manager**, EDIA, Education Technology, Amsterdam, NL, 2008--2013

## Education/Courses

SKO, University of Amsterdam, 2024-2025

Ph.D. Superb Supervision Course, University of Amsterdam 2021

University Teaching Qualification (BKO), University of Amsterdam 2020

Academic Leadership Course, KNAW Humanities Cluster 2019

Ph.D. Cultural History, Utrecht University, 2017. Dissertation Title: Consuming America. A Data-Driven Analysis of the United States as a Reference Culture in Dutch Public Discourse, 1890-1990. Prof. Dr. Joris van Eijnatten (promoter), Dr. Jaap Verheul (co-promoter)

rMA. Cultural Analysis, *Cum Laude*, University of Amsterdam, 2010

MA. American Studies, *Cum Laude*, Utrecht University, 2009

MsC. Psychology, Utrecht University, 2006

## Research Interests

Computer Vision, Cultural AI, Digital Humanities, Computational History, Multimodality, Bayesian Statistics

## Personal Interests

Music (cultures), long-distance running, cooking, programming

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

### Academic Journals

1. Smits, T., Wevers, M. Coloring in the world of others: color use in visual orientalism, 1890–1920 (2024). *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 11, 1374.
2. Petram, L., Koolen, M., Wevers, M., & van Lottum, J. (2024). Charting Lives and Careers: Enriched Data About the Dutch East India Company’s Eighteenth-Century European Workforce. *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, 10: 44, pp. 1–17.
3. Nielbo, Kristoffer, Folgert Karsdorp, Melvin Wevers et al.. (2024). Quantitative text analysis. *Nature Reviews Methods Primer*.
4. Smits, Thomas, Melvin Wevers. (2023). A multimodal turn in Digital Humanities. Using contrastive machine learning models to explore, enrich, and analyze digital visual historical collections. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*.
5. Van Strien, Daniel, Melvin Wevers, Kaspar Beelen, Thomas Smits, Katherine McDonough. (2022). Computer Vision for the Humanities: Introduction to Deep Learning for Image Classification. *Programming Historian*.
6. Wevers, Melvin, Nico Vriend, Alexander de Bruin (2022). What to do with 2.000.000 Historical Press Photos? The Challenges and Opportunities of Applying a Scene Detection Algorithm to a Digitised Press Photo Collection. *TMG – Journal for Media History*
7. Smits Thomas, Melvin Wevers (2021). The Agency of Computer Vision Models as Optical Instruments. *Visual Communication*
8. Wevers, Melvin, Marijn Koolen (2020). *Digital Begriffsgeschichte: Tracing Semantic Change Using Word Embeddings* *Historical Methods*
9. Wevers, Melvin, Kristoffer Nielbo, Jianbo Gao (2019). Tracking the Consumption Junction: Temporal Dependencies in Dutch Newspaper Articles and Advertisements. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*
10. Wevers, Melvin, Thomas Smits (2019). The Visual Digital Turn: Using Neural Networks to Study Historical Images. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*
11. Wevers, Melvin, Jesper Verhoef (2017). Coca-Cola: An Icon of the American Way of Life. An Iterative Text Mining Workflow for Analyzing Advertisements in Dutch Twentieth-Century Newspapers. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*

### Conference Proceedings

1. Ros, Ruben, Melvin Wevers. Epistemic Capture Through Specialization in Post-World War II Parliamentary Debate. *Computational Humanities Research 2024*
2. Karsdorp, Folgert, Melvin Wevers, Mike Kestemont. Coverage-based Comparisons of Cultural Diversity. *Digital Humanities Benelux 2024*
3. Barancova, Alexandra, Melvin Wevers, Nanne van Noord. Blind Dates: Examining the Expression of Temporality in Historical Photographs. *Computational Humanities Research Conference 2023*
4. Wevers, Melvin, Jan Kostkan, Kristoffer Laigaard Nielbo. Embed, Detect and Describe (EDDe): A Framework for Examining Events in Cultural and Historical Data. *Proceedings of DHNB 2023*
5. Van Noord, Nanne, Melvin Wevers, Tobias Blanke, Julia Noordegraaf, and Marcel Worryng. An Analytics of Culture: Modeling Subjectivity, Scalability, Contextuality, and Temporality. *Cultures in AI/AI in Culture workshop at NeurIPS 2022*

6. Wevers, Melvin, Folgert Karsdorp, and Jelle van Lottum. What shall we do with the unseen sailor? Estimating the size of the Dutch East India Company using an unseen species model. *CHR2022: Computational Humanities Research Conference*
7. Smits, Thomas, Melvin Wevers, Eleonora Paklons. A Clash of Colorful Worlds: Distant Viewing Color in Visual Representations of the Orient and Occident, 1890-1920. *DH Benelux 2022*
8. Wevers, Melvin, Jan Kostkan, and Kristoffer Nielbo. Event Flow: How Events Shaped the News, 1950-1995. *CHR2021: Computational Humanities Research Conference*
9. Wevers, Melvin. Scene Detection in *De Boer* Historical Photo Collection. *ICAART 2021*
10. Wevers, Melvin, Thomas Smits. Detecting Faces, Visual Medium Types, and Gender in Historical Advertisements, 1950–1995. *European Conference on Computer Vision 2020*
11. Wevers, Melvin, Thomas Smits. Advertising Gender - Using Computer Vision to Trace Gender Displays in Historical Advertisements, 1920-1990. *ADHO2019*
12. Bardiot, Clarisse, Peter, Broadwell, Peter, Mila Oiva, Pablo Suarez, Melvin, Wevers. The Leonardo Code: Deciphering 50 Years of Artistic-Scientific Collaboration in the Texts and Images of Leonardo Journal, 1968-2018. *ADHO2019*
13. Wevers, Melvin. Using Word Embeddings to Examine Gender Bias in Dutch Newspapers, 1950-1990. *ACL Workshop LChange'19*
14. Van Erp, Marieke, Melvin Wevers, Hugo Huurdeman. Constructing a Recipe Web from Historical Newspapers. *ISCW'18*
15. Wevers, Melvin, Leonardo Impett, Thomas Smits. Modeling the Genealogy of Imagetexts: Studying Images and Texts in Conjunction using Computational Methods (poster). *ADHO2018*
16. Wevers, Melvin, Marieke van Erp, Hugo Huurdeman, Richard Zijdeman. Jamie LOD-iver: Enriching Historical Recipes with Linked Open Data (poster). *DHBenelux 2018*
17. Wevers, Melvin, Thomas Smits. Seeing History: Analyzing Large-Scale Historical Visual Datasets Using Deep Neural Networks. *ADHO2018*
18. Wevers, Melvin, Kristoffer Nielbo. Tracking the Consumption Junction: Long-Range Dependencies and Predictive Causality in 20th Century Dutch Newspapers. *DHNordic17*
19. Martinez-Ortiz, Carlos, Tom Kenter, Melvin Wevers, Pim Huijnen, Jaap Verheul, Joris van Eijnatten. Design and implementation of ShiCo: Visualizing Shifting Concepts over Time. *HistoInformatics'16*
20. Kenter, Tom, Melvin Wevers, Pim Huijnen, Maarten de Rijke. Ad Hoc Monitoring of Vocabulary Shifts over Time. *CIKM'15*
21. Wevers, Melvin, Tom Kenter, Pim Huijnen. Concepts Through Time: Tracing Concepts in Dutch Newspaper Discourse using Word Embeddings. *ADHO2015*
22. Wevers, Melvin, Tessa Hauswedell. Reporting the Empire: The Pall Mall Gazette 1870-1900. *DHBenelux 2015*
23. Wevers, Melvin, Jesper Verhoef. The Digital History Cycle. *DHBenelux 2015*
24. Wevers, Melvin. Blending in the American Taste. *AHA 2015*
25. Wevers, Melvin. Between Flappers and 'Bakvissen'. The Emancipatory Potential of the American Female Smoker in Dutch Consumer Society. *Reference Cultures and Imaged Empires 2014*
26. Wevers, Melvin. American Blends In. *EAAS 2014*
27. Wevers, Melvin and Pim Huijnen. Mapping America in Dutch Public Discourse: A Digital Approach to Researching the United States as Reference Culture. *Conference Proceedings Olomouc American Studies Colloquium 2013*

## Chapter in Edited Volume

1. Jongepier, Iason, Wevers, Melvin (2022). Digitale Stadsgeschiedenis, de belofte ingelost. *Stadsgeschiedenis, 2022-2*
2. Wevers, Melvin (2022). Mining Historical Ads. *Digitised Newspapers - A New Eldorado for Historians?* Eds. Bunout, Estelle, Maud Ehrmann, Frederic Clavert.
3. Wevers, Melvin. Distant Reading America: References to the United States in Twentieth-Century Digitized Newspapers (2019). *Constructing America and Defining Europe in Perceptions of the Transatlantic Other, 1900-2000*. Eds. Jaap Verheul, Jochen Hung, and Rachel Gillet (Brill, Leiden), accepted with minor revisions.
4. Wevers, Melvin. 1928: Coca-Cola en de moderne consumptiemaatschappij (2018). *Wereldgeschiedenis van Nederland*. Eds. Lex Heerman van Voss, Marjolein 't Hart, Karel Davids, Karawn Fatah-Black, Leo Lucassen, and Jeroen Touwen

## Other Output

1. HISVIS. Scene Detection Models and Training data derived from De Boer Press Photo Collection.
2. Leemans, Inger, Jan Hein Furnée, Melvin Wevers. Nederland in Gezichten. Honderd jaar vormgeving van Nederland in Reclame. Lecture for the Association of Advertising. March 12, 2020.
3. Wevers, Melvin, Jelle van Lottum, Marieke van Erp. Van kranten tot scheepspapieren en processtukken: rijkdom en verrijking van digitale bronnen voor onderzoek (2018). *Archievenblad*
4. SIAMESE tool for visual similarity search <https://lab.kb.nl/tool/siamese>
5. SIAMESET. Dataset of 1M historical advertisements <https://lab.kb.nl/dataset/siameset>
6. Word2Vec Models Dutch Newspapers <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3237380>
7. Wevers, Melvin. Find What You Were Looking For (2017). *KBLab Blog*
8. Wevers, Melvin. Texcavator in Residence (2015). *British Library Digital Scholarship Blog\**
9. Artistic output of the *Aesthetics of Exclusion* project presented at *Museumnacht Amsterdam* and *Milan Design week*

## Working Papers

1. Wevers, Melvin, Marijn Koolen, Jelle van Lottum, Lodewijk Pertram. Modeling Maritime Careers in the East India Company

## Grants

1. Melvin Wevers & Hoessein Alloul. *Young Scholar Starting Grant. Sound Affairs: Sonic History of Foreign Relations, 1700-1900* €300k
2. Melvin Wevers *Museum voor Wereldculturen. Examining Bias in Photo Collection using Deep Learning* €12.5k
3. Melvin Wevers *Tools to data: Emotional Arcs in Historical Novels*. CLARIAH+ €7.5k
4. Melvin Wevers, Nico Vriend (Noord-Holland Archief ). *GeheugenTraining*. Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds & Mondriaanfonds €21k

5. Clarisse Bardirot (PI), Timothy Tangherlini, Maria D'Orsogna, Melvin Wevers, et al. Leonardo: Combining Distant Reading and Distant Viewing to study the relationship between arts and sciences in the Leonardo Journal, 2019. FMSH (Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme). €20k
6. Melvin Wevers (PI), HisVis: Historische Fotocollecties Verkennen met Computatieve Beeldherkenning, 2019. NWO-KIEM €15k
7. Sjoerd ter Borg, Mark-Jan van Tellingen, Melvin Wevers, and Thomas Smits. Aesthetics of Exclusion, 2018. Stimuleringsfonds voor Creatieve Industrie €7.5k
8. Kristoffer Nielbo (PI), Jianbo Gao, James Abello, Melvin Wevers. Calculus of Culture. 2017. Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (Network Grant) €36k
9. Kristoffer Nielbo (PI), Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Melvin Wevers, M. *Semantic Disruptions using Topic Modeling (2017)* Danish eScience Center €13k
10. Joris van Eijnatten, Femke van Esch, Melvin Wevers. *Europe From Below: Popular Understanding of Europe in Digital Collections (2017)*. Institutions for Open Societies, Utrecht University €12k
11. Joris van Eijnatten (PI), Jaap Verheul, Pim Huijnen, Tom Kenter, Melvin Wevers. *Mining Shifting Concepts Through Time (2015)*. Netherlands eScience Center Path Finding Grant €50k

## Honors & Awards

UvA Starting Grant, 2023-2028 €300k

RIS Fund, UvA, 2022 (used for developing a ERC StG)

TLC Fellowship, 2022 (used for developing courses)

Best Paper Award, DHBenelux, 2018

Icarus Award for Beach Umbrella, Platform voor Informatiesamenleving, 2018

First prize Hack-a-LOD Hackathon, 2018 €1k

Young Research Grant, Herrenhauser Conference, 2017 €0.5k

IPAM Research Fellowship, UCLA, 2016. €10K

Short Stay Ph.D. Fellowship, Utrecht University, 2016. €2k

## Editorial Service

Associate Editor, *Journal of Computational Humanities*, 2024-

Editor, *Tijdschrift voor Mediageschiedenis*, 2018--2020

Guest editor, *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, 2021, *Stadsgeschiedenis*, 2022-2

Reviewer for *Nature*, *View*, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*; *History, Culture, and Modernity*; *Junctions*; *ADHO*; *ACH*; *DHBenelux*; *DHNordic*; *DATECH*; *Visual Communication*; *ACL*; *Journal for European Periodical Studies*; *ICAART*, *Computational Humanities Research*, *Journal of Digital History*

## Invited Talks

2024 Rennes, France; London, United Kingdom; Antwerp, Belgium; Vienna, Austria

2023 Louvain-la-neuve, Belgium

2022 Data Science Day, Amsterdam; Noord-Hollands Archief, Haarlem; Fudan Summer School, Shanghai, China

- 2021 Wageningen University European History Reloaded Symposium, Utrecht University, NL; Keynote Workshop "Digital Methods in History and Economics", University of Hamburg, DE; "Open up the Morgue: press photography now", Rijks Museum, Amsterdam, NL
- 2020 Dagstuhl Seminar, Leibniz Center for Informatics, DE; Impresso Conference, Lausanne, CZ; DARIAH Campus, Aarhus University
- 2019 New Horizons, C2DH, Belval, LU; Tools Criticism Workshop, Leiden University; Think:Play:Hack Workshop, SMU, US; Humlab, Umeå University, SE; Fantastic Futures, Stanford University, US
- 2018 Cultural Analytics, UCLA, US; Digitized Magazines, Sorbonne University, FR; Aarhus University; Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France; CREATE Salon, University of Amsterdam, NL; Transmission in Motion, Utrecht University, NL; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 2017 IPAM, UCLA, Library Amersfoort (DH Clinic), National Library of the Netherlands, University of Hannover, Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, Guangxi University
- 2016 Aarhus University, KNAW (New Trends in eHumanities), Utrecht University (Descartes Center)
- 2015 University of Amsterdam (CREATE Salon), British Library, University College London
- 2014 Utrecht University (Cultural History Seminar)

## Service to Profession

- Program Committee, UvA (2024-present)
- Exam Committee, UvA (2024-present)
- Panel Member CORE, Luxembourg National Research Fund (2024-2029)
- Committee Member Mid-term review History Leiden University, eScience Digital Humanities Call
- Reviewer ERC-COG, DFG, CORE
- Member of CLARIAH+ WP6: Text Analysis
- Curriculum Committee UvA, 2020-present
- Member KNAW HuC Works Council, 2019--2020
- Diversity and Inclusivity Working Group, KNAW HuC, 2018--2020
- Selection committee KNAW HuC DHLab & UvA (History & Media Studies)
- Interviews in NWO\*; CLARIN\*; NRC\*, eDATA, Historisch Nieuwsblad, Elsevier, DiggIt Magazine
- Public lecture for Universiteit van Nederland\*
- Organization of a workshop on Computer Vision, ADHO2017, Montreal, 2017
- Program Committee HistoInformatics 2021; Workshop on Historical Language Change, ACL, Florence, 2019; ARTIDGH2020: Artificial Intelligence and Digital Heritage workshop
- Local Organizing Committee, THATCAMP, Utrecht University, 2015
- Advisor for Impresso Project and EYRA (NLeScience Center Benchmarking Project)
- Chair 5th International Workshop on Computational History (HistoInformatics 2019)
- Program Chair Computational Humanities Research 2020, Organizing Committee 2021/2022
- Director of the Society of Computational Humanities, 2023-

## Professional Memberships

- ADHO (2016--2020)

## Teaching

### Workshops

Speech-to-text and Diarization using AI University of Amsterdam, Meertens Institute, 2023-2024  
AI and Historical Maps - CREATE/GLOBALISE University of Amsterdam, 2023  
Machine Learning Historical Texts. University of Luxembourg, 2019  
Computer Vision. Antwerp University, Ghent University, 2018  
Data Visualization. Text Mining Summer School, 2017, Aarhus University  
Mining Delpher Data. DH Benelux Workshop 2017

### Courses

**Applications of Cultural Data Science.** MA Media Studies, University of Amsterdam, 2024  
**Foundations of Cultural Data Science.** MA Media Studies, University of Amsterdam, 2024  
**History and AI.** MA History, University of Amsterdam, 2024  
**Tutorial: Sonic History.** RMA History, University of Amsterdam, 2023  
**Tutorial: Digitized Advertisements.** RMA History, University of Amsterdam, 2022  
**Philosophy of History.** BA History, University of Amsterdam, 2022  
**Philosophy of Science.** Pre-master History, University of Amsterdam, 2022  
**Historical Research Methods: Digital History.** BA History, University of Amsterdam, 2021 & 2022.  
**Introduction to Historiography.** BA History, University of Amsterdam, 2020.  
**History Lab: Text Mining.** BA History, University of Amsterdam, 2020 & 2021.  
**We are all consumers: advertisements as lens on the consumer society.** MA History, University of Amsterdam, 2020 & 2021  
**Digital Humanities** (with dr. Pim Huijnen). rMA Cultural History, Utrecht University 2015.  
**Humanities: Past, Present and Future** (with Prof. dr. Iris van der Tuin). rMA Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Utrecht University, 2014.  
**Introduction to Historiography.** BA History, Utrecht University, 2013.

### Guest Lectures

Working with Audio, University of Antwerp, 2024  
Digital Literacy Workshop, University of Southern Denmark, 2018  
Text Mining Winter School, Aarhus University, 2017  
DH Minor, Utrecht, University, 2016  
American Studies MA, Utrecht University, 2015  
DH Minor, Utrecht University, 2014

### Supervision

Co-promotor PhD Thesis Holden Carroll (University of Amsterdam, 2024-present); Ruben Ros (Leiden University, 2020-present)

(r)MA Thesis Bram Bakker (UvA), Maarten Kanssen (UvA), Maaïke Jansen (UvA), Josse Proosdij (UvA), Krasimir Kovachev (VU University), Vera van der Seyp (Leiden University)

Visiting Researcher Jan Kostkan (Aarhus University, 2022), Phillip Stenman Baun (Aarhus University, 2022)

Intern Daan Groot (UvA, 2021); Ying-Ying Guo (VU), KNAW Humanities Cluster, 2019; Daan Braven (UU), KNAW Humanities Cluster, 2019

Student Assistant Ruben Ros (UU), KNAW Humanities Cluster, 2019

Tutor Thesis Lab, Utrecht University, 2015

## Coding / Technical skills

*Programming Languages:* Python (advanced), R (intermediate), Julia (beginner)

*Libraries:* Pandas, Scikit-learn, PyTorch, BRMS, Gensim, NetworkX, Fast.AI, Keras, NLTK, Matplotlib

*Tools:* AntConc, OpenRefine, eMacs, Git, Mallet, and Gephi

## References

Prof. Dr. Joris van Eijnatten, Professor Cultural History, Utrecht University / Director Netherlands eScience Center, [j.vaneijnatten@uu.nl](mailto:j.vaneijnatten@uu.nl)

Prof. Dr. Kristoffer Nielbo, Associate Professor Humanities Computing, Aarhus University [kln@cas.au.dk](mailto:kln@cas.au.dk)