

KNIR – CAMPUS OF EXCELLENCE

Newsletter Summer 2013



KNIR
KONINKLIJK
NEDERLANDS
INSTITUUT
ROME



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- [Welcome to the KNIR](#)
- [Teaching program 2013-2014](#)
- [Strategic plan 2013-2017](#)

Centre of expertise in the humanities, Dutch gateway to the Eternal City: for more than a century, the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome has been committed to high-quality research and interdisciplinary education in the humanities, offering outstanding students and researchers from Dutch universities a *campus of excellence* in the historical and cultural heart of Europe.

In 2013, we have made important progress in further strengthening and developing this mission of the Institute.

A **series of competitive courses** introduced students from the Netherlands and beyond to the many riches of Rome; a **series of interdisciplinary** conferences made scholars, businessmen, and the general public debate their common viewpoints and challenges; and next academic year, the KNIR organizes a **new program of master classes and events** that will continue to offer excellent students and researchers an international platform in the Eternal City.

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1 Presentation KNIR strategic plan



On the occasion of the yearly meeting of the Friends of the KNIR on 13 April in Utrecht, Gert-Jan Burgers, the director of the KNIR, presented the Institute's new 5 year-strategic plan, entitled **Campus of Excellence**. This plan is inspired by a series of major challenges central to the Dutch universities, i.e. excellence, interdisciplinarity, internationalism, social engagement and sustainability. Discussing these challenges, the plan sets out a strategy to confront each of them, thus aiming to offer the Dutch universities a Campus of excellence in the historical and cultural heart of Europe.

2 Retrospective Winter-Spring 2013



The essence of excellence is educating new generations of outstanding students and offering an international platform to established scholars from different disciplines. Over the past six months, the KNIR has continued to do so by organizing a series of competitive courses for BA, MA and PhD students from the Netherlands and beyond, and a series of interdisciplinary conferences and events for the academic community and the general public.

Highlights of this semester included:

Our successful interdisciplinary courses:

BA-course [Roma Caput Mundi](#) (January).

MA-course [Latin epigraphy on location](#), with Prof. Bernard Stolte (Groningen University) and Dr. Ton Derks (VU University Amsterdam) (1-11 March).

MA-course [Egypt in Rome](#), organized together with Dr. Miguel John Versluys and his VIDI-team (Leiden University) (11-24 March).

MA-course [Classical Rome in the Eighteenth Century](#), organized together with Prof. Wyger Velema (University of Amsterdam) (13-26 May).

MA-course [Challenging Eternity](#), on the relationship between heritage and urban development, organized together with the heritage institute CLUE of the VU University Amsterdam. This year's key-note lecture was by former president of the Dutch Research Council (NWO) and Spinoza prize winner prof. Peter Nijkamp, on [Creative Minds and Cultural Ambiance in the New Urban World](#) (4-14 June).

Summerschool [Europe from a Roman perspective](#), on the history and challenges of European unification, organized together with Dr. Thierry Baudet (Tilburg University), the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies in Bologna and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (17-24 June).

Presentations of major new books by leading Dutch academics:

Peter Rietbergen, [Rome and the World - The World in Rome](#) (14 February).

Sophie Levie, [La rivista Commerce e Marguerite Caetani](#) (7 March, organized together with the Fondazione Caetani).

Paul Meyboom and Eric Moormann, [Le decorazioni dipinte e marmoree della Domus Aurea di Nerone a Roma](#) (28 June).

Our wide variety of scientific conferences and cultural activities:

International workshop for PhD students [Landscape and Memory in Ancient Latium](#), organized together with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (4-13 May).

Symposium [Contemporary Art between Science and Society](#), organized together with the Mondriaan Fund and the Dutch Embassy in Italy (31 January).

Classical concerts - on occasion of a [sponsor evening for CIMA](#) (28 March) and the [Notte dei Musei](#) (18 May).

Archaeological workshops [Colonial Landscapes in Republican Italy](#) (31 May) and [Roman Toilets of the Capital](#) (24 June).

Architecture competition on testing an app of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Roman district of Testaccio, commissioned by the KNIR and elaborated by the Spinlab of the VU University Amsterdam. 35 Italian students participated in the competition, organized together with the Faculty of Architecture of RomaTre University (17 - 20 June). The two winning teams were invited to participate in the GEODESIGN conference in the Netherlands (19-20 September), with a meet and greet with Rem Koolhaas.

KNIR's **Porte Aperte & Garden Party 2013**
The academic year ended with a [spectacular party](#) at the KNIR at 12 July. The staff toured visitors around the Institute, students shared information about the KNIR's activities, and all danced the night away. With special thanks to Heineken and thanks to all our guests for being there!

For further information and updates, please visit our website:
www.knir.it

3 The Humanities in Society & Business



A particular noteworthy event took place on 23-24 May, when the KNIR, together with the Danish institute, organized a **two-day workshop** on The Humanities in Society & Business. This seminar brought together scholars from the humanities - historians, philosophers, archaeologists - with economists and successful managers from all over the world. It aimed to explore the role of the humanities in today's society, what they offer business and how to connect the humanities' wisdom with business reality. The keynote speaker of the seminar was the prominent British philosopher John Armstrong. For a film with impressions of the seminar and attention in the press, see: <http://humanitiesinsocietyandbusiness.blogspot.it/>

As part of this burgeoning dialogue with the world of business, the KNIR has decided to start mobilizing extra resources from the private and public sector and designated this task to Mrs Frédérique Wiemeijer. A first outcome is a **sponsorship contract with KLM Italy**, valid for 2013 and focused on the archaeological and heritage projects of **Testaccio** and **Mapping the Via Appia**. Another successful initiative is the "Adopt a Treasure"-project, which aims to promote the preservation of the "pregiati" or "treasures" of the library collection of the Institute.

4 Upcoming events



Our last public event before the holiday break is a [Summer evening concert](#) on 18 July.

In the next academic year we again organize a range of activities:

- Official launch project [HADRIANVS](#) (3 October).
- Masterclass [Art & Humanism in the Italian Renaissance](#) (14-27 October).
NB: *Deadline for applications is 1 September!*
- Masterclass [Prospection Archaeology in Rome](#) (28 October - 4 November).
NB: *Deadline for applications is 15 September!*
- Conference [The Age of Tarquinius Superbus. A Paradigm Shift?](#) (7-9 November).
- Conference [Imagining the Ancients. Republics and the Classical Past](#) (14-15 November).