

# MEDICINE, MAGIC, AND RELIGION: CONNECTED WORLDS

CONFERENCE IN HONOUR OF HANS DE WAARDT

Organised by Stevin Centre, ACRH, ACCESS and CLUE+

Friday 23th of November 2018

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



## About the conference

Medicine is often presented as an established scientific discipline with rock-hard foundations and foolproof methods. However, professional medical historians and cultural historians consider physiology and pathology as reflections, at least to a certain extent, of the ways in which in the context of specific cultures nature and the cosmos and as a consequence the human body are assumed to function. Exploring the parameters of this context, in other words charting its character and content, the settings of this culture can be explored by focusing on the margins of the medical domain, on the boundary that divides regular from irregular medicine and of course on how this line over time is relocated. For this borderline tends to shift its position due to developments in either the domain of regular or that of irregular medicine or in both of them.

Till the 1970s the emphasis in medical historical research was on developments and changes in regular medicine. Since then promising beginnings have been made with the exploration of irregular healing and its practices. One of the aspects that, however, need further investigation is the relations that this set of thoughts and actions had with other fields such as magic. Both the learned variant of Neo-Platonists like Ficino and Agrippa of Nettesheim, and that of unschooled cunning folk come then into view. And this also holds true for religion, as for instance the exorcisms of the Catholic Church and some Protestant denominations. But other religious ceremonies and practices that were meant to counter bodily or psychic problems are also of relevance here. This symposium will focus on the exchange of ideas and practices between (ir)regular medicine and the domains of magic and religion in the early modern period.

### Speakers:

Willem Frijhoff  
(em. professor Vrije Universiteit)

Rita Voltmer  
(Universität Trier)

Wolfgang Behringer  
(Universität des Saarlandes)

Eddy Houwaart  
(University of Maastricht)

Gary Waite  
(University of New Brunswick)

Lectures: 45 minutes per speaker (25 minutes lecture & 20 minutes discussion)



## POGRAMME

Location Main Building of Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV, Amsterdam.

10:00 – 12:45 Room 14A-33 (14th floor room 33)

13:45 – 15:15 Room 13A-33

15:45 – 16:30 Room 12A-00

10.00 - 10.15 Welcome by Inger Leemans & Fred van Lieburg

10.15 - 11.00 Willem Frijhoff (em. VU and EUR)

The two Reformations, the Family of Love, and the critical intellectuals of the duchy of Cleves around 1560. A fresh reflection on well-known topics

11.00 - 11.15 *Coffee*

11.15 - 12.00 Wolfgang Behringer (University of Saarland)

Chance, Necessity, and Witchcraft

12.00 - 12.45 Rita Voltmer (University of Trier)

“Our indians”. The Jesuits encounter with “superstition” and popular magic in the European peripheries

12.45-13.45 *Lunch*

13.45 - 14.30 Eddy Houwaart

New medical technologies around 1900. Reframing the boundaries between regular and irregular medicine

14.30 - 15.15 Gary Waite

Dutch Religious Nonconformists on Medicine, Magic, and the Devil:  
A Reconsideration

15.15 - 15.45 *Tea*

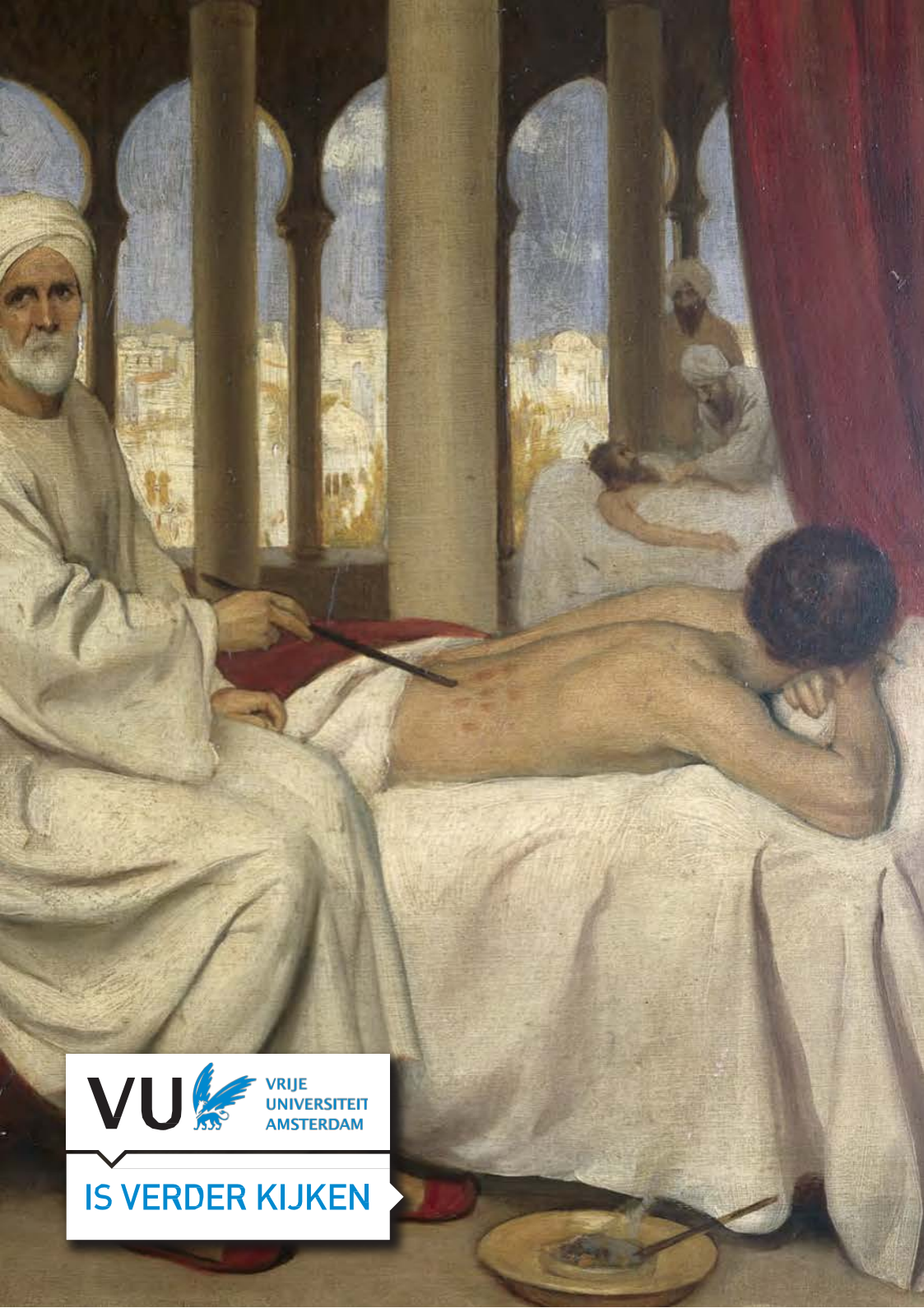
15.45 - 16.30 Hans de Waardt

Medicine, Magic and Religion, Relations and Overlaps: A Case History

16.30 *Conclusion*

17:00 *Drinks*, location hall 12th floor.





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