



Now for your word of the board, last but not least:
Your Commissioner of Education, sitting at home with her workload significantly decreased.
Staying at home was what I had wished for in the past,
But you don't wish for something like this to last.
Trying to stay hopeful and make the best of it,
However, I miss many activities if I must admit.
Albion is doing their best to think of fun activities,
It has forced us to a new level of creativity. You can join us all with a variety of things to do,
From symposia to game nights, or chats about what you're going through.
I have full trust that we will survive this,
And I wish the new board an ending of the year that I have to miss.
For my final words, I have this to say:
Come to student assemblies to make the Commissioner's day! Also, if you are wondering why this story is written in rhyme,

It is the only aspect of poetry that comes to mind.
Zoë op ten Berg
Commissioner of Education

## 



MICHEL FAUEE
fenna
undying
michel faber

grand union
zadie smith
the white album

the fire next time james baldwin

the secret history donna tartt



franny and zooey
by

the woman destroyed simone de beauvoir


TAN is LiGna 161 MeNTis coryoulinct dagmar taal is zeg maar echt
mijn ding paulien cornelisse

obscura
by
shane emmett
$\qquad$


## PHOENIX

Magazine for students of English Language and Culture at Utrecht University.

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Cecilie Balemans-Højberg
(0) artsy_cici

## Logo

Cecilie Balemans-Højberg

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# Bookshelf 


#### Abstract

ow that we all find ourselves in an "intelligent lockdown" due to the COVID-19 crisis, my roommate Jitske and I met up in a somewhat unusual setting so that we could do what we do best: chatter our time away about everything and nothing. We discussed, among other things, the mountain of books that she managed to work her way through over the past weeks.


So, what is your most recent read?
Well, I tend to read several books at a time, but I guess the book I finished most recently was The Trial by Kafka. It was my first work by Kafka and I was really confused by it, in a positive way. He just leaves you wondering about virtually everything that happens in the story. It still puzzles me and I think it's precisely this that made it so fascinating. I'm really eager to explore his other works as well, especially The Metamorphosis.

Do you have a favourite author?
I'm not the best at picking favourites, so I'm going to cheat a little and pick two:

> "l like to broaden my horizons in my reading and I am always open to a work that I don't know or a genre that I haven't explored//

Virginia Woolf and Haruki Murakami. The novels by Virginia Woolf that I read are To the Lighthouse, Flush, Mrs. Dalloway, and The Waves. I really like her stream of Consciousness style. You have to put some effort into her works, but her writing is so beautiful and rich so it's definitely worth it. Last summer, I read Kafka on the Shore by Murakami and I just couldn't stop reading that novel. The story is so absurd to the point where you're completely lost as to what is happening, and once you think you know what is going to happen, the story takes a completely different turn. I was really drawn into Murakami's surrealistic world and I couldn't tell what was real and what wasn't. I also read A Wild Sheep Chase and last week I received 1Q84, which I want to read in the foreseeable future.

## Did someone read to you when you were a child?

Yes, my parents read to me a lot, or so they told me. Of what I can remember, they mainly read picture books to me, like Jip en Janneke and Pluk van de Petteflet, typically Dutch children's literature. They usually read to me right before I would go to sleep. I don't know what other books they read to me, actually.

What was your favourite book when you were a child?
Oh the entire Harry Potter series, no doubt. I devoured these books as a child-I could finish one book in one morning, easy. I was just so invested, then, that I simply couldn't stop reading (similar to when I read Kafka on the Shore). Bearing in mind that my parents only allowed me to watch the films after I had finished the book. That was a rule at home, for all film adaptations of a book generally. So I read them all. And the entire series was truly amazing. I'm not sure if I have a favourite within the series. I really loved The Prisoner of Azkaban and The Order of the Phoenix (how appropriate), but, yeah, I think the entire series is amazing so I can't really choose one favourite.

What are the genres that you like to delve into with your reading?
Well, I read across several genres I presume, but I mainly go with literary fiction, and within that genre I like historical fiction, surrealism, magical realism, and dystopian works. Literary fiction and historical fiction are probably my most-read genres, including works like The Thorn Birds by Colleen McCullough or Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell. With Murakami I've fallen in love with surrealism and magical realism. I am not into the fantasy genre, though. I prefer a story that is set in a real society. I haven't read that many dystopian books, but I generally enjoyed the ones that I read, like 1984 and Brave New World. They aren't my go-to novels, but certainly nice from time to time. It has become a habit of mine to go to the thrift store and buy many books at once for a low price. Then, I'll read these books and I can find out for myself what I think of them. Maybe it sounds a little cliché, but I like to broaden my horizons
in my reading and I am always open to a work that I don't know or a genre that I haven't explored. This works really well for me with these books from the thrift store. This way, I discover books that I wouldn't have found otherwise.

Really nice to hear about your openness to all of these different genres and your shopping habits as well. Do you have any genres that you aren't familiar with yet but that you would like to explore?
I would really like to give nonfiction a try as well. Most of the books I've read so far have been within the genre of literary fiction, as I told you, but lately I've also started reading some nonfiction works and I was pleasantly surprised by those as well. I'd like to read On Photography and Regarding the Pain of Others by Susan Sontag. I am also really intrigued by Joan Didion. I watched the documentary "Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold" and it was so interesting! Now I desperately want to try some of her works as well. I've actually already ordered The White Album and Slouching Towards Bethlehem, I couldn't not get my hands on those.

How about your reading habits? When and where are you most comfortable reading?
I feel very comfortable in the chair in my room. Especially early in the morning the sunlight shines precisely on that corner of
my room and that's just such a lovely and comfy place. I've got like a small coffee table next to it on which I can put a drink or some snacks because, you know, those are essentials obviously. This chair is also right next to my bookcase so it's easy to grab a book I want to read or to put it away once I've finished it. During the afternoons I tend to move to our balcony because that's on the other side of our flat and it's sunlit for the rest of the day till dusk. Very nice to have a beer there as well.

So you've been reading quite a lot lately. Do you have an interest in poetry as well?
Now with the intelligent lockdown and the corona virus I spend a lot of my time reading, but I haven't read that much poetry over the last weeks. I really liked the poetry that was assigned for us for This American Life or Civil War to Civil Rights, though. Especially Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, and Sylvia Plath are some of my favourite poets from this course, I think. Besides the set poetry we read during our courses, I am not that familiar with poetry, but I'd like to read some more of that as well some time.

What would you consider your favourite book?
My favourite book as of now must be The Waves by Virginia Woolf, without a doubt.


roos tessa thijs

"I think I got my love for storytelling from my grandad. He never even had the chance to finish elementary school because of the Nazi occupation, but when he starts telling stories from decades ago, it's like you're right there with him. I don't think he has any idea of what I'm doing at university. "Something with storytelling in English," I usually tell him when he asks me, so I don't have to confuse him with my ideas about South Asian Instagram poetry and how the internet changed autobiography. It may be a vague answer, but I can tell it makes him proud, and that's all that matters to me."

## word of the month

selected by PATRICK VAN OOSTEROM

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y e a r n i n g
/'j\partial : n I \/
n o u n
1. a strong feeling of loss
and longing for something
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source: Oxford English Dictionary

As we find ourselves in the fourth month of quarantine due to COVID-19, our society has lapsed into a collective state of yearning for things we never thought we'd miss. Of course we miss hugging our closest friends, and meeting up and drinking a few beers with them. Apart from that, however, many of us now also yearn for the little details of our pre-quarantine life: the hundreds of fellow-students making their way through Drift and Janskerkhof, the coffee from the UB coffee machines, the small talk with the course instructors, and yes, I have to confess that I even miss the Kromme Nieuwegracht (and its occasional mice). Hopefully, in the next months the social distancing rules will ease, and we can return as soon (and safe) as possible to the student life as we know it.

## playlist of $m y$ <br> ife

## playlist of $m y$ <br> ife

3．restacks by Bon Iver
$\qquad$

 8．Emoticons by The Wombats
9．Come Together by The Beat 10．There lsa light That Never Cins Out by the Smif

songs selected by<br>Patrick van Oosterom

# Caitlin Kroor <br> WAT JE MOET DOEN MS JE OVER REN NIJPAARD STRU IKELT 

Many children and adults alike wonder what they can take from a piece of poetry. Emily Dickinson's poetry takes a while to figure out; what can you learn from such a piece? In his work, Edward van de Vendel answers this question by saying that this Dutch poetry collection contains poems that, in his eyes, are actually useful. His poems discuss questions such as: "what to do when you trip over a hippo?", "what to do-when you're in love with a boy?", "what to do when you're in love with a girl?", and "what to do when your mother cries?". Van de Vendel approaches some of these questions from a comical point of view. One of his poems includes the advice to get yourself a flute and blow it, rather loudly, in the ear of the person you fancy. An interesting take on making a person fall in love with you, I'd say.

While he gives some funny answers to questions he proposes, Van de Vendel also includes some heavier topics in his collection. He uses his platform to discuss maternal sadness, he includes information on and explanations of dementia, and discusses what to do when a distant relative has passed away. Topics that can touch children but are rarely discussed with them. Novels allow authors to discuss certain topics with their readers. While it seems likely that a poem does not allow such a thorough interaction, Van de Vendel packs a lot into a one-page poem. The way in which he hands information to children and converts them is done perfectly. He does not crouch down to discuss topics or belittle them in any way. He stands up straight but is still able to look those children directly in the eye.

In his poems, Van de Vendel makes use of a wide arrange of poetic devices. Every poem is different, but this only emphasizes the freedom that Van de Vendel has. This freedom adorns the work. This poetry collection does not have one theme, besides the supposed 'usefulness' of the poems. Van de Vendel even utilizes metafictional devices when he hands the reader a how-to on a book presentation on the collection they are currently reading.

Martijn van der Linden's illustrations are an absolute delight. He makes use of a variety of illustration techniques. It becomes clear that these creators have worked together before. The illustrations tie in beautifully with the poems. The
illustrations form a beautiful sight for children when the book is read to them. However, it is the variety of techniques that captures the attention of adults.

Van de Vendel's poetry collection shows, yet again, the genius of this writer. It shows that he can still talk to children like they are his equals. The way the lighter topics are mixed with heavier ones makes the collection in its entirety feel like a breath of fresh air. It can make readers both laugh and cry. Additionally, Wat je moet doen als je over een nijlpaard struikelt is a perfect example of a way to make poetry more accessible for a large audience. Whether it is read to children or read before bed alone, Van de Vendel allows every reader to take from it whatever they might need. Thus, even though it is published by a children's publishing company and its title might suggest that it is written just for children, as an adult this work is a delight as well. Give it a try, it might surprise you!

## Tessa-Kaisicn LITERATLURNI SELN

Literature contributes greatly to our personal development. It stimulates imagination and creativity, sharpens our capacity for critical thinking, and cultivates understanding for the other. Literature is inherently linked to society and plays a vital role in determining our culture and identity. Het Literatuurmuseum in The Hague is therefore working hard to make literature accessible to everyone.

When you enter the building, you will first find yourself in De Schrijversgallerij. This grand space presents you with around 500 painted and sculpted portraits of Dutch writers and poets, past and present. When you go through the door into Het Pantheon, you are be able to peruse poems, prose fragments, plays, and book-to-film-adaptations that together make up the Netherlands' literary heritage. The writing process can be experienced from start to finish, from the first letters on paper to the last proof copy.

In 2015, the museum turned over a new leaf, completely rebranding itself with the help of digitalisation. With a brandnew name, - the museum was previously known as Het Nederlands Letterkundig Museum - three social media platforms, and a fresh website, the museum placed its focus on a new audience: the future generation. It was the start of a new concept: an online museum. Posts on Instagram guide viewers to the website,
which is full of articles about new acquisitions, forgotten stories and beloved writers. Written in bite-sized sentences with an indication of how long it takes to read each article, the literature is made easily accessible to all. The archive has been digitalised completely, and you are able to scroll through all the exhibitions from the comfort of your own home, making a visit possible even while living in our anderhalvemetersamenleving.

## Leanne van Kampen DEAD POETS SOCIETY

At the start of the block, I felt a sudden urge to find a new source for procrastination during these 'Corona times'. I went on Tumblr (shocker, I know), and suddenly found myself in the wondrous world of the 'Dark Academia' aesthetic. This aesthetic is based on literature, poetry, and language. It is expressed with muted, warm colours, mostly variants of brown and beige. Before this deep dive, I was asked to review the movie Dead Poets Society (1989), directed by Peter Weir, and as the universe loves a good coincidence, a lot of the pictures I came across during my deep dive were screenshots from Dead Poets Society.

I quickly went on to watch the movie, and, as it was the first time I saw it, I was awe-struck. This movie is absolutely stunning, has a beautiful score, and is full of symbolism, homoerotic subtext, and incredible cinematography.

For anyone not familiar with the movie, it tells the story of an English teacher (Robin Williams) at an all-boys prep school, who inspires his students (Robert Sean Leonard, Ethan Hawke...) through teaching poetry. The boys then find their teacher's old poetry book, and find a poem that was read at the start of each meeting of the Dead Poets Society. They reinstate the Society, and in doing so, connect with each other through the art of expression and poetry.

The beautiful stills combined with powerful dialogue (and prose) make for a movie that is equally unique, beautiful, and heart-breaking. This movie deals with teenagers who are stuckin life being inspired by a teacher to live their life to the fullest, and to "constantly look at things in a different way". It emphasises the importance of expression through writing, finding your own interests, and standing up for yourself. "Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary".

## Iris du Gardiju W.B. YEATS

There are few things as difficult as reviewing poetry. In my opinion, poetry, and all art for that matter, is all about feeling. It conjures certain feelings, but not just in the moment; it leaves a lasting impression, and that's where the value lies. The great J.D. Salinger said it best through his character Franny: "If you're a poet, you do something beautiful. I mean you're supposed to leave something beautiful after you get off the page and everything," to which she adds "All that maybe the slightly better ones do is sort of get inside your head and leave something there." This is the essence any person is trying to grab while reading poetry. I read W.B. Yeats's poetry collection The Wild Swans at Coole. This collection contains some of his very best poetry in my opinion. It is oozing with artistry. "From dream to dream and rhyme to rhyme I have ranged / In rambling talk with an image of air: / Vague memories, nothing but memories."

Yeats's poems are full of emotion and imagination. Some of the prominent themes of the collection are the passing of time, ageing, nature, the human mind, and the eternal swirl of love and desire. Yeats's poetry feels extremely personal and it bleeds emotion. At the same time, his words give, as the Nobel Committee described, "expression to the spirit of a whole nation." W.B. Yeats writes about the Irish people and about humankind, he writes about Irish oppression and the struggles of everyday life, he writes about a country and about a heart. To give an example: in the poem "Men Improve with the Years," the exploration of ageing and the passage of time rings true.

The reason Yeats's poems feel so personal is because they are. This is not just because of the fact that they came directly from his mind, but also because he writes about events and feelings of everyday life. He writes on his own terms, not anyone else's. An example of this is the poem"On Being Asked for a War Poem": "I think it better that in times like these / A poet keep his mouth shut," which best shows who Yeats as a writer is: he writes from the heart and he writes for people, for people who can find comfort or beauty or feeling in his work. That is exactly the effect his work has on the reader. His artistic form amazes while the words wash over you and leave a beautiful impression behind.

Not everyone may agree that his work is full of beauty, but all who read his collection will be touched and something will be left inside you. Even if that something is just the remnant of "Vague memories, nothing but memories."

## Julia Schumemans MUSIC

Even though I do not read poetry often myself, I unconsciously listen to a lot of poetry in musical lyrics. Some songs bear messages that seem hidden at first sight. However, when you really listen to the lyrics, songs can be very poetic. For this piece I chose the song "Miles Apart" from Maduk. He is a Dutch Liquid Drum and Bass artist with the mission to make this genre of music more widely known. "Miles Apart" was released in 2018 but I still listen to it often. It tells us to look away from our phones and see the world around us: "lhlow are we so connected but we don't link up?" or "lelverybody looking down, we should look up". A line that is very accurate in these times of the coronavirus: "Iwle need touch just as much as the air that we breathe". Lyrics are often simplified in electronic music, but this song proves that there is still electronic music with meaningful lyrics. I hope that you will check out the song and listen to it. Even though drum and bass is not for everyone, the message of this song is.

## Caitlin Kroot TIE CIILD POET

Nearly fifty years after its initial publication, Homero Aridjis's El poeta niño received an English translation. A translation made by Homero's own daughter, nonetheless. She precedes Homero's work by a short translator's note, in which she briefly discusses her own relationship with her father. In it, she mentionshow - despite it being setin Mexico - the work can still be relatable for a wide audience. Additionally, she describes some events that shaped her father's life. While this note adds a personal touch and explains some of the events that happen throughout Aridjis's work, I'd prefer to have read it after reading the work in its entirety. In this note, she spoils the major event of The Child Poet causing the reader to be on the lookout for this event. I think it would have been more powerful to explain these events towards the end of the work. This would have given the reader an opportunity to learn about the events from the point of view of Homero himself, rather than have his daughter's
opinion and angle.
The translator's note set the work up to be something large, it would show the changes Homero has gone through in his childhood. However, the event that sets these changes into motion only happens towards the end of the book. The larger part of the novel paints a picture of Homero's life, his family situation, how the people around him treat one another, and the state of Mexico. Thus, leaving his personal character development till the end.

Some parts stood out more than others. A rather touching part discusses his grandmother. He notes how they would go out together and she would talk about the changes in the landscape and the city. How quickly everything changes. Passages like these are what Chloe refers to as relatable, I'd say. Another relatable moment is when Homero discusses the weather. He mentions that during the rainy season a sudden downpour would appear. When the clouds and rain disappear, they make place for the "fragrances of earth and wet plants". Homero describes such simple events in a successful way, I can literally smell that beautiful smell after the rain has cleared.

While these little moments were rather touching, the most touching part of the novel recounts Homero's accident. This is what I referred to before, the event spoiled by his daughter in her translator's note. I respect and like the introduction that Chloe gives the reader, but surely spoiling a work that can be so powerful is a bit of a waste. The attention to detail with which Homero describes the event is so astonishing, so striking. The reader will probably guess, rightly, what the events are that follow the moment in which Homero's younger self grabs the gun. This does not lessen the beauty of this passage in any way, though.

Homero's work contains many passages and memories of his younger self. These passages are at some places relatable, they might even hold up a mirror to its readers. However, other passages felt distant; the story takes place in a different time and different place than what I'm used to. This can be a good thing, surely, but it didn't do the trick for me. Additionally, it feels like it lacks plot. Towards the end, the event that I don't want to spoil provides a plot for the latter part, but the rest of the novel is really character-driven. If that is your cup of tea, and if you can
put yourself in another person's shoes more easily, this work is probably just your thing. However, I'd advise skipping the translator's note and reading that afterwards.

## Patrick van Oosterom DJUNA BARNES

Although Djuna Barnes has always been a legendary figure to her admirers, she has been somewhat eclipsed from the spectrum of 20 th century American literature until only recently. This can be attributed to the fact that her writing was often explicitly queer in content. She lived in Europe as an American expatriate, and was close friends with fellow expatriates James Joyce and T.S. Eliot. She was also closely connected to many icons and writers from the lesbian and feminist scene in the 1920 s and 1930 s, such as Elsa von FreytagLoringhoven, Mina Loy, and Radclyffe Hall. Nowadays she is revered by writers such as Jeannette Winterson, and her work is on its way to being restored to the rightful place in the history of literature. Eliot wrote a loving preface to her most famous work, Nightwood, now considered a classic of lesbian fiction, and Barnes later thanked Eliotin aletter for his "beautiful preface... No critical appreciation has ever given me so much pleasure; it makes my life a little less terrifying." Although her poetry has been somewhat overlooked in comparison to her fiction, the same explorations of womanhood and sexuality are clearly at the centre of her chapbook The Book of Repulsive Women.

The chapbook is an unusual one, and it has a complicated publishing history. It contains a preface by Douglas Messerli, who recounts that history, and writes that "Djuna Barnes, if she were not in fury might well have laughed at the whole issue. Or, more likely, she would have demanded that we immediately destroy all copies." Not many chapbooks begin with an authorial desire of selfdestruction, and, in a way, it is easy to see why she might be ashamed of her work. The work, which contains eight short poems and five drawings, often reads like a blunt, straightforward rhapsody on the question: "what does it mean to exist in a society when your whole existence is labelled as repulsive?" Barnes's untamed passion with regards to the urgency of her subject matter is, instead of being a disadvantage, the work's most striking feature.

Barnes's women - mothers, cabaret dancers, prostitutes - sweat; they have humid arms, they salivate, they live in fear and have secrets; theirbellies bulge, they don't know how to dress properly, they have too little or too much selfconsciousness, they snore"both loud and sad," they pray and swear, they bloom, they blush, they cry, but, most of all, they carry a certain fire, a certain flame within them. The poems are as united in content as they are united in form, since all poems contain a very strong sense of meter and rhyme. Her rich vocabulary endows this collection with a certain glow and warmth, and her iambs mimicheartbeats. This makes the last lines of the last poem in the collection, "Suicide," all the more tragic. The reader is presented with two nameless corpses labelled Corpse A and Corpse B, and Barnes writes how the body of Corpse B is "shock-abbreviated/ As a city cat./She lay out listlessly like some small mug/Of beer gone flat." The rhythm falls flat, and it is apparent that a certain fire has gone out.

Barnes celebrates the women's unapologetic femaleness, even though their lives do not adhere to rigid societal standards at that time. Her subjects are real and complicated human beings, and their loud and outspoken identities are placed front and centre. It becomes apparent that they are not the ones who should change; society should. These women internalise toxic notions of beauty and behaviour, a theme which is especially prevalent in the second-to-last poem"To a Cabaret Dancer": "We saw the crimson leave her cheeks/Flame in her eyes/For when a woman lives in awful haste/A woman dies." In this case, her inability to live up to these standards becomes fatal: "A thousand jibes had driven her/To this at last/Till the ruined crimson of her lips/Grew vague and vast." The iambic heartbeat still underlies her life, but it is made clear that the pressure is unbearable. Although the collection ends on a sombre note, Barnes does not want to cause despair, and with her witty and intelligent treatment of the subject matter she appeals to change in the most optimistic of ways. The first line of the collection seems to be her thesis statement, and we cannot help but feel inspired when we read"SOMEDAY beneath some hard/Capricious star-/ We'll know you for the woman/That you are."


## Bauke Dudink

C H A I R
Nicknames: Baux, Bauke, Bauksos, Sam, Justin, Beau, Baukie. From: Zutphen. Born on: 7th of August 2000. Favourite book: A Song of Ice and Fire. Granted: it's too long for most people's liking, but that's not a problem for me. Beer of choice: Grolsch Triple, multiple of them if possible. Guilty pleasure: Pumpkin Spice Latte (being basic is a lifestyle). Speciality dish: Chicken Tikka Masala! Get all those spices together and make a flavour explosion that will put anything else to shame. My catch-phrase: Get the wine, spill the tea. Favourite film: The Jerry Seinfeld masterpiece Bee Movie. The greatest piece of art since Michelangelo's "David". Go-to song: When I'm happy; anything by Taylor Swift pre2015 (once again, being basic is a lifestyle). When I'm sad, though, I prefer "Smother" or anything else by Daughter. The one true way to a good crying experience. Morning person vs. night owl: Certainly a night owl. There is nothing more romantic than watching the beautiful sunrise together before going to bed. GA vs. RP: RP, although I like nothing better than showing off all my somewhat rusty accent skills. Celebrity crush: Troye Sivan. That is some quality eye-candy right there. Dream vacation destination: Scotland is my baby. Spirit animal: King Julien. $\cap$ Litor

Nicknames: Veer, Veerbeer. Frourite book:
Born on: 19th of April 1999. Favose by Jonathan Born on: 19th of Aprincredibly Close Miller, or the Exaffran Foer, Circe by Madeleine Meer of choice: Harry Potter series, of course. Beer Guilty pleasure: Kelly Did someone say wine? Guou know it. Specialty Clarkson goes OFF and wraps, pasta with tuna dish: Either Mexican or sweet pota from the oven. My catch-phrase: sletsgo. Fav really special to Call Me By Your Name, it's just and if you haven't me and so uniquely directe YOU DOING. Go-to watched it yet WHAT ARE Lauv featuring Troye song: "I'm So really is no other song that can make me feel the same way. night owl. GA vs. vs. night owl: Definitely will ever be able to RP: GA is the only olly and if you speak good
actually speak naturally crush:
celebrity unforced RP I envy you. Cation destination:
 Saoirse Ronan. Dream Iceland at some point, but I Spirit I still want to go to back to New Zealand. Savourite
also love to go little fav the animal: Either otters whey're lazy and horny rocks or kakapos, Literature or linguistics:

## Charlolle van IIOHdt <br> $T_{R_{\text {EAS }} U_{R E R}}$

 Nicknames: Charlotije. From: Charlie, Lotte, on: 12th of March Vlaardingen. Luna, book: 13 March 1999. Favourite Pinborough. Beer of Minus by Sarah which is a Beer of choice: Mjedpiir, had this a mead beer. The first time i, pleasure: Big was at Elfia! Guilty dish: Curry Big Time Rush! Specialty My catch-phry is a lot of fun to cook. gaan. Favourase: Doodgaan is ook because Mourite film: Madagascar 2 like them chunk Moto. I like them big, I Highway" by Ry. Go-to song: "Life is a cough). Morning platts (Cars cough owl: I am a night owl, my productight peaks in the evening. GA productivity Celebrity crush: Anna Kendrick, have you seen her in Pitch Perfectrick, Big haveDream vacation destination: Wof. Disney Worlation Spirit antimation: W
my boi. Literature or linguisshu

## Rixt Tuinstra

COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS Nicknames: Schaapje, Rikkie. From: Leeuwarden, Fryslân. Born on: 4th of March 2000. Favourite book: Are you Experienced? by William Sutcliffe. Beer of choice: Maallust Tripel (local beer from Drenthe). Guilty pleasure: Naps. Specialty dish: Chickpea curry. My catch-phrase: "Beter laat dan nooit", better late than never. Favourite film: The Breakfast Club. Go-to song: "Over and Over" by Hot Chip. Morning person vs. night owl: Night owl, I can't function in the morning. GA vs. RP: RP. Celebrity crush: Harry Styles because damn. Dream vacation destination: Melbourne. Spirit animal: Cats, honestly I find more and more similarities between me and cats every single day. Literature or linguistics: Linguistics, duh.

Bram van Becrendonk
COMMISSIONER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Nicknames: Barf, Braf, and many more Albion does not know about yet. From: Best. Born on: 11th of March 2000. Favourite book: 1984 by George Orwell, but I'm not much of a reader. Beer of choice: Casually, Bavaria, but if I have money to spend I do like a trappist quadrupel. Guilty pleasure: Playing old Pokémon games. Specialty dish: Chocolate bavarois, a belgian chocolate pudding dessert. Hilariously unhealthy though, so I rarely make it. My catch-phrase: 'Vo (voor de leden). Favourite film: The first Pokémon film, God, when Pikachu cries and the tears revive Ash - that image will never leave me. Seriously though, The Breakfast Club is really nice. Go-to song: "Peach Scone" by Hobo Johnson \& the LoveMakers. Morning person vs. night owl: Night owl, my productivity peaks at around 2 in the morning. GA vs. RP: RP, but no HP please. Celebrity crush: Koen. Dream vacation destination: Nepalese Himalayas. Spirit animal: Grizzly bear. Literature or linguistics: Linguistics, duh.

## Nienke Ilutten

Nien, Bamboo. From: Eindhoven. Born on: 20th of September 2001. Favourite book: I don't have a favourite book, but I do enjoy reading fantasy the most of all genres. The Harry Potter and The Maze Runner series are my favourite ones, I think. Beer of choice: Bavaria or Grolsch, but I do like to drink a specialty beer once in a while. Guilty pleasure: Listening to Carnaval music randomly throughout the year, just because I want it to be Carnaval. Specialty dish: Wraps with meat, tomato sauce, and a ton of veggies. My catchphrase: Joooeee. Favourite film: I really liked The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones, but once again, anything fantasy/sci-fi will do. Go-to song: Right now "Is Everybody Going Crazy?" by Nothing But Thieves, but generally, anything alternative rock or metal is very nice. Morning person vs. night owl: Night owl, but if I have to wake up early, that's fine as well. GA vs. RP: RP. Celebrity crush: Thomas Brodie Sangster (Newt in The Maze Runner). Dream vacation destination: Japan. Spirit animal: Panda. Literature or linguistics: Literature, obviously.

A few weeks ago, Julia and I received some bright orange envelopes that contained a few Yorkshire Tea bags. With the coronavirus crisis still not being over, we once again had to organise a digital Tea Time via Microsoft Teams. Nevertheless, Clara Vlessing had sent us one of her favourite teas so we could still, in a way, share the same beverage. We prepared it in traditionally British fashion with some milk. When I asked her if she puts her milk in first or her tea in first - more colloquially known as being a Miffer or a Tiffer - she answered that she puts the tea in first, although there were "no strong feelings either way!". She showed us her kitchen, in which hung a beautiful poster of the 2016 film Moonlight, and we got to admire her aesthetically pleasing bookshelves populated by, among other writers, Ali Smith, Sarah Waters, Bernadine Evaristo, and Philip Roth. Clara is currently doing research for her PhD on the remembrance of female activists, and over our Yorkshire teas we had a lovely chat about her interests in academia, her student life in Bristol, a few excellent film recommendations, and her experiences as a teacher.
What did you study, and where?
I studied English at the University of Bristol for my undergrad. I was there for three years, and during that time I also did a semester in Paris at the Sorbonne. Then I came to Utrecht for my RMA in Comparative Literature, and I did a semester abroad in Boston. Now I'm still here in Utrecht, although I live in Amsterdam, and I'm working my PhD.

Can you tell us a bit about your PhD?
I'm doing my PhD as part of a big project, a European Research Council (ERC) project, and it is on remembering activism in Europe. I specifically look at the cultural memory of late nineteenth and early twentieth century women activists. So, I look at three figures in particular: Sylvia Pankhurst (the daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst), Louise Michel, and Emma Goldman. I look at how they have been represented in books, films, archives, and more. It's part of a wider consideration of the memory of women and activists, and why particular activists are taken out of the collective and considered icons.

Have you learned anything from these women, personally? Do you have a personal take-away?
They are all really remarkable, but I don't know if I would be able to do any of the things that they have done, like surviving these hunger strikes in prison and many other terrible experiences. Somebody like Sylvia Pankhurst - who I am working on at the moment - is inspiring because she is so strong in her convictions. You see this idea again and again in how she is remembered as being 'ahead of her time'. She was kind of intersectional at a point when that wasn't really a consideration in mainstream feminism. That's inspiring!

What were you like as a student?
I don't think I was that different? It doesn't feel like

that long ago I did my undergrad. I used to edit a magazine, like you lot do, which was a university feminist magazine called "That's What She Said". I put a lot of energy into it; it was one of my main outlets at university. We did a lot of opinion pieces and we often wrote about contemporary issues. For instance, I remember before the Brexit referendum, we published something like ' 5 feminist reasons to stay in the EU'. We also published feminist poetry and drawings. One time we had a political uproar because we wanted to print a drawing of a naked woman with loads of body hair. The publishers wouldn't publish it, so we were like 'oh we're taking a stance!' and really went in on

trying to get them to print it. In the end we had to publish it with a different publisher, and we made a really big deal about that!

How did you end up here in the Netherlands? I came to do my master's here, so it was mostly that, and master's degrees in the Netherlands are less expensive than those in the UK. Also, my dad is Dutch, so it was a country I knew quite well. That made things a little easier, but I didn't really think it through that much. I have done some Dutch courses, but I can only speak a tiny bit of Dutch. It is really embarrassing because people see my name and assume that I am Dutch, but that isn't the case. We never spoke Dutch at home because my mum doesn't speak it.

Is there anything you miss about the UK? Yeah! At the moment I miss the UK because I literally can't go there, and I miss my family and friends a lot. I'm from London, and all my friends haven't really left London, so I can always go back to them and they're still there. I miss them, and sometimes I just miss London. That city has such a different energy compared to Amsterdam, and I miss that a bit.

How would you describe your own specific academic interests?
It's pretty broad - at the moment I'm really interested in memory and representations of the past, which was mainly how I ended up doing this PhD. I tended more towards working on contemporary literature during my undergrad and my master's. I also really enjoy working on poetry, which is something I don't get to do anymore.

Do you perhaps have a recommendation for a poem or poet that everyone should read right now?
The other week I was reading these Maggie Nelson poems. I know that some people find her annoying, but I really liked them. She has a book called Something Bright, Then Holes, and it contains a series in which she writes about a canal near her house. She describes how she keeps going back to that canal, night after night. I'm not sure why, but I find it very beautiful.

Why did you decide to start teaching?
I wanted to stay in the world of academia and literature when I finished my master's. I had a feeling that I was not done with it yet, and I wanted to keep being part of it, so teaching was kind of the obvious option.

# "I really like very long novels, novels that you kind of get into and don't know if you'll ever get out of" 



I'm not a very experienced teacher though - I'm only teaching my second course right now. I'm still working it out. But I really enjoy it! I get very nervous beforehand because it is kind of like going on stage or something: it happens, and then it is a bit of a blur, and then it is finished, and afterwards you hope it went alright.

Do you remember anything about the first class you ever taught? What was it like?
It was kind of like I just described, like going on stage. I think I was really lucky, because the students were very nice. It was my first class, and I also think that it was for you lot your first class at university. There was a sense of being in it together - I was working out how to be a university teacher, and they were working out how to be university students. I remember early on that I swore quite a few times, and forgot about it, and then one of the students teased me about it at the end of the course. I also have a really clear memory of the phone in the classroom going off in one of my classes. I hadn't even realized we had a phone in the classroom, so I just walked over there and looked at all my students and nervously asked them "should I pick it up?" and everyone looked back at me blankly, as if to say "we don't know, you're the bloody teacher". I also experienced how the Dutch education system is different from the British education system. A lot of students were less experienced with writing papers, but much more experienced with giving presentations.

What do you like most about Utrecht? Do you have a favourite spot?
I love Utrecht! I think my favourite bit is actually not in the city of Utrecht, but it is near Amelisweerd and the river there. I have lots of memories of going there with friends and having picknicks and swimming. And I was always surprised by how
you can be in complete countryside so quickly (compared to London). I really love it there. Thinking of Utrecht makes me actually quite nostalgic right now, since I can't go there.

What are your favourite films at the moment? I'm watching lots of films at the moment. Last week we watched The Master, the Paul Thomas Anderson film with Philip Seymour Hoffman. It was really good, I enjoyed that a lot. We also watched Mistress America, the Noah Baumbach film with Greta Gerwig. And we watched that French film, Les Misérables by Lady Ly, which won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and it's a kind of police/crime thriller, and it was really good but fucking heavy. I was just sitting there at the edge of the bed, finding it nerve-racking. I could not rewatch that film, it's too upsetting.

How would you describe your reading taste? Pretty varied. I mean, I mostly read fiction. I have to read a fair amount of history and criticism for my PhD, so for pleasure I tend to avoid that. I am currently reading this slightly mad speculative fiction novel called The City and the City by China Miéville. Recently, I read both of Max Porter's books. They're kind of long prose poems, which I really enjoyed. More generally, I really like very long novels, novels that you kind of get into and don't know if you'll ever get out of. For example, Eleanor Catton's The


Luminaries and Don DeLillo's Underworld, and Donna Tartt books.

Do you have any memories of a favourite teacher?
I had a really good English teacher at secondary school called Mr. Thompson. He just made studying English so exciting, and he always gave us really weird combinations of books. He'd get us to compare the most random selections of texts, like Life of Pi, Great Expectations, and "The Wife of Bath's Tale", and those were our three texts for the term. He always managed to draw really funny links between them. He was just a really interesting teacher.

What advice would you liked to have known earlier? As a student or teacher?
As a student probably lots of advice. My university was kind of hands-off, so I remember writing my first essay without any references. I do remember a teacher from my bachelor's programme who taught us how to use critical material: you had to pretend that you were sitting around a dinner table and curating conversations with all these people. I never thought about that, but because it is a scenario that is easily imaginable. I remember that being useful advice, the idea of me facilitating a conversation between all these different people. As a teacher, I'm still on the lookout for advice [Clara laughs nervously]. study and career-related activities. It also serves to get more of your feedback to the university. The AC discusses all things to do with studying in Utrecht. Whether it's the course material, the room that the seminars are in, or the limited number of spots available in the library, the is the place to go.


Albion alumni with some activities, writing alumni updates and coordinating the Buddy Project, where alumni are paired with a student.

The Introduction days are very important for our lovely fresh new students: they will be led through the streets of Utrecht, meet their fellow first year students, and get to know the English department of the UU as well as Albion of course.


# athoioneers abroad <br> by angela kroes 

I'll admit right off the bat, writing for Albioneers Abroad feels a little weird since I left Belfast in March. International travel was about to be restricted
 then, due to COVID-19, so Utrecht University sent out an email strongly advising Erasmus students to return home. I landed at Schiphol Airport a couple of days after receiving that message and finished my semester in the weeks that followed.

Although I had to leave Belfast prematurely, I still had loads of fun while it lasted. I initially felt drawn to Belfast not necessarily because I loved the Emerald Isle so much (it was a big plus, though) but because Queen's University offered some very interesting courses. I took a course on Irish Gothic literature which was my favourite by far. Every course runs a two-hour seminar per week, one-hour lectures take place every other week. You'll have to plan your remaining free time around studying the assigned texts, but this is quite doable (especially in one of Belfast's many cute cafes). Most teachers offer a list of topics for the final essay, but you're always free to devise your own thesis statement just like in Utrecht.

If you're looking to travel all of Ireland or the rest of the UK, Belfast is the perfect hub. I often went out on the weekends to explore the country and everything is practically right around the corner. You can visit Londonderry to learn about The Troubles, climb the stepping stones of the Giant's Causeway or go hiking in the Mourne Mountains, all of which are a little over an hour away from Belfast. Queen's student accommodation also frequently organises trips and events for its residents. This is how I went to see my first ever ice hockey game. Imagine the Belfast Giants emerging from an inflatable tunnel shaped like the Irish mythological figure Finn McCool's mouth and stepping onto the rink while flamethrowers go off on each side of the tunnel. Now that's entertainment!

All in all, I had a great Erasmus exchange. I had never lived on my own before, but I felt at home very quickly since Northern-Irish people are all friendly and helpful, especially my teachers at Queen's. I'll go back for sure.

Cheers,
Angela
PS. If you're ever in Belfast during the weekend, go visit St. George's Market. One stand sells scones the size of your hand. You won't regret it, trust me.


Starting your orientation for a master's cannot be done early enough. Really, nothing is stopping you from attending orientation events in your second or even your first year. So, now we've got the well-meant motherly advise out of the way, let me tell you about what master I did, why, and what I thought of it.

I studied Literary Translation (English-Dutch) at the University of Utrecht. While I'm certainly glad I made this decision, it wasn't made overnight. My head and heart were set on Utrecht quite early on, though even when you think you are sure of your choice, it's never a bad idea to compare it to related options. So yes, I did look into some other popular alternatives like Writing, Editing, and Mediating in Groningen, which focuses on several skills relating to translation, or Translation (MA) in Leiden which focuses on both English-to-Dutch and Dutch-to-English translation. My final choice was Utrecht for several reasons.

I liked the idea of specialising in literary texts: novels, poetry, drama, lyrics - basically anything that is not part of the Professional Translation track they offer here, too. My choice was confirmed by the process I went through for my BA thesis on translating eye-dialect: I absolutely loved it!

What also appealed to me was the clear study path the master set out, while still allowing you quite a bit of creative freedom. For many assignments your instructors will allow you to pick your own text or texts to focus on. I analysed the etymology and translation of fantasy words in Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, I looked at sentence structure in David Foster Wallace, and I even looked at translating the overlap between visuals and the written word in Instagram poetry by writers such as Rupi Kaur, Charly Cox and Elizabeth Day. As long as you can justify why you have selected a certain text, you will never run out of options. Do not mistake this freedom, though. As it is a university MA programme, there will be a strong theoretical focus as well.

Due to the way the master is set up, you get to peek into different language studies. I never expected to learn so much about the problems German, French and even Icelandic may pose to translators, and how to apply those findings to my own English-to-Dutch translations.

Is it corny to say I miss studying? Maybe a little. Doing a bachelor followed by a master was, to me at least, a unique opportunity to devote a whole year in my case (the master is 1.5 years now), to something I'm incredibly passionate about. Choose wisely: if you're going to be spending this much time on it, you may as well like the subject, right? The stories about an MA being a lot more time-consuming than a bachelor are true, but to me, all those hours were definitely worth it.

If you have any more questions about my master or my life as a Translation alumna, feel free to hit me up on Facebook or the likes!
by kayleigh herber

During academic year 2018-2019 I opted to follow the minor Media \& Cultuur. Despite the bachelor's program offering English lectures and seminar groups for international students, those versions of the same courses are only accessible to students enrolled in the English bachelor. This means the minor is only available in Dutch - and you'll have to get used to writing academically in Dutch, though you can always ask your teacher if you're allowed to do assignments in English.

As with any different discipline, it's a bit of a learning curve in terms of what is expected in assignments - and how Chicago referencing works. Luckily, that goes for everyone else too: the minor consists of picking between the two firstyear courses for each block, which means you'll be thrown back in time to when everyone was still figuring out how university life works! It might not be the main reason to choose a minor, but if you're not huge on the social butterfly skills, it's an advantage that most people are looking to make new friends and that you're not the odd one out while everyone else already has their clique. Throughout the year, you get to meet most of the year's firsties and see them flourish; I still have good friends over at AKT.

The first block, you have the choice between Vertellen en Verbeelden and Geschiedenis van het medialandschap, of which I picked the former. The latter offers a historic overview of media but is rather infamous as a course many students have to retake. Block two offers Intermedialiteit and Onderzoeksmethoden voor media- en cultuurwetenschappen, and I enrolled in the latter. It offers a perspective on media influenced by gender and postcolonial studies, which I enjoyed, while the former has the course aim of teaching you how to find sources, which might be aiming a little low at this point. Block three starts introducing specializations with Inleiding film and Inleiding Nieuwe media en digitale cultuur, while block 4 offers Inleiding televisiewetenschap and Inleiding theater \& dans. I picked film and television, as I was mostly interested in adaptations for my thesis, but this second semester gives you a lot of freedom to explore your specific interests.

One final tip: try not to start your minor when your ex is starting her bachelor of the same name unless you want to stare longingly at the back of her head for a year.
by effie ophelders


> The Phoenix team 2019-2020 wishes you all a fun and relaxing summer vacation!

