

(Re-)Constructing “public debates” with CLARIAH MediaSuite tools in print and audiovisual media

Berrie van der Molen | Jasmijn van Gorp | Toine Pieters

CLARIN 2018, Pisa, Italy



Utrecht University

Debate Research Across Media (DReAM)

- CLARIAH research pilot 2017-2018
- Testing and developing elements of the CLARIAH MediaSuite
- *“How can public debates on drugs and regulation between 1945 and 1990 be researched across print and audiovisual datasets?”*

<www.clariah.nl/projecten/research-pilots/dream/dream>

Prof. Dr. **Toine Pieters** (principal investigator)
Utrecht University, Freudenthal Institute

Berrie van der Molen MA
Utrecht University, Freudenthal Institute

Dr. **Jasmijn van Gorp**
Utrecht University, Media and Culture Studies

Dr. **Steven Claeysens**
National Library of The Netherlands

Dr. **Eva Baaren**
Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision

Dr. **Roeland Ordelman**
Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision

research interest

- The interaction between national drug debates and drug regulation in The Netherlands between 1945 and 1990
- Access to large amount of digitized cultural heritage documents (newspaper, television, radio) “as big data”

The research is part of overarching research project The Imperative of Regulation: <www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/research-projects/i/46/13546.html>



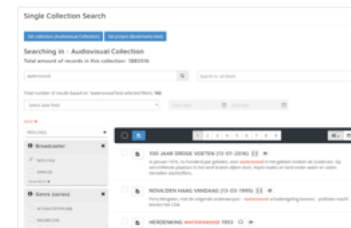
The Media Suite tools offer the core functionalities needed for performing scholarly research tasks with audio-visual media and contextual collections. Tools available in this version of the Media Suite enable metadata inspection, exploratory browsing, search, visualization, and analysis (annotation support).

[VIEW DOCUMENTATION](#) ➤

Inspect

[DETAILS](#)[OPEN](#) ➤

Explore

[DETAILS](#)[OPEN](#) ➤

Search

[DETAILS](#)[OPEN](#) ➤

Compare

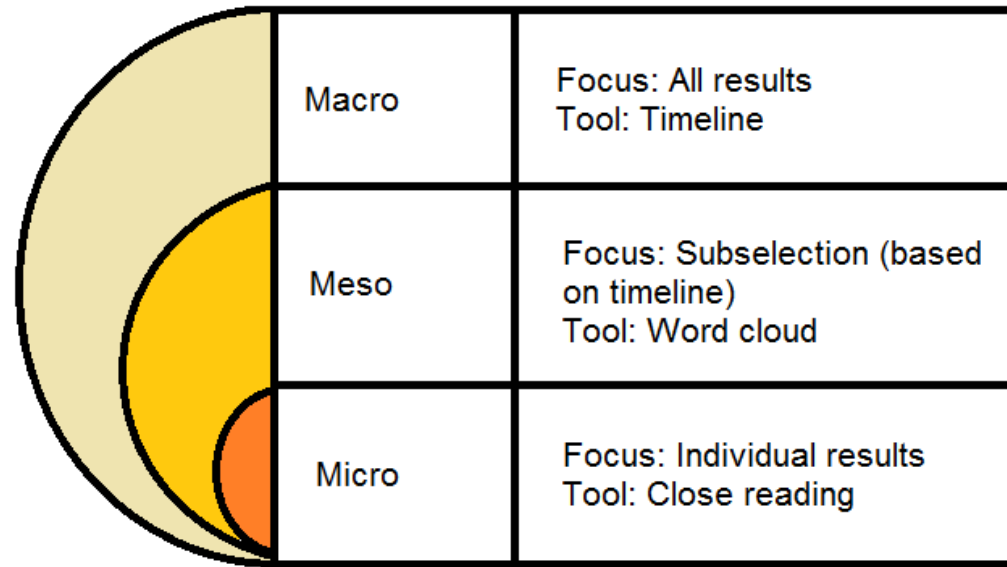
[DETAILS](#)[OPEN](#) ➤

leveled approach

- distant reading methods (keyword search, timeline graphs & word clouds) **signpost** to relevant material for close reading
- tested/used in previous tools on the newspaper dataset (National Library of The Netherlands)*
- incorporating television and radio (Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision) → *insights from media studies can help historians to critically bridge the gap between distant and close reading of different digital media sources to reconstruct public debates*

* Van der Molen, Berrie, Lars Buitinck, Toine Pieters. "The leveled approach. Using and evaluating text mining tools AVResearcherXL and Texcavator for historical research on public perceptions of drugs." 2017 arXiv:1701.00487.

leveled approach



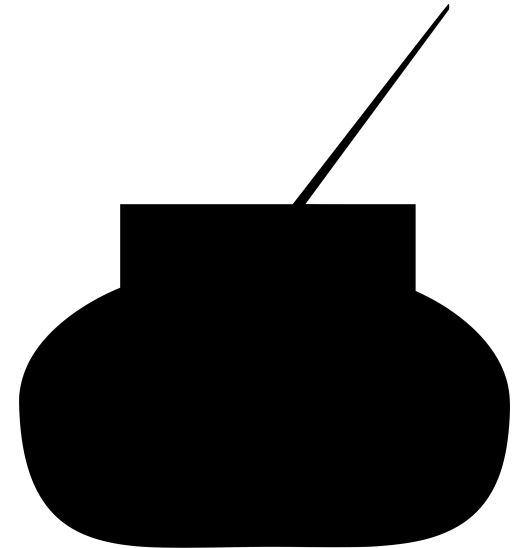
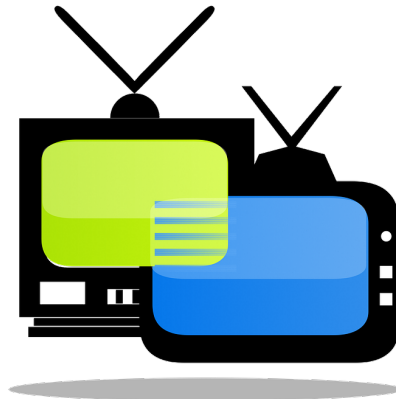
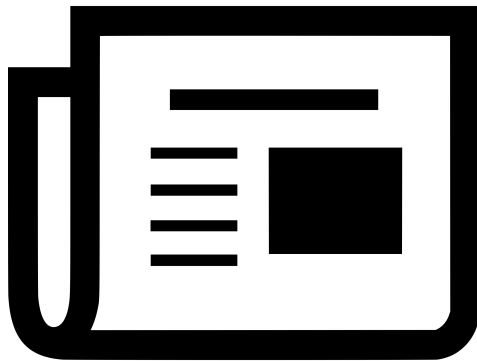
“public debates”

historical research

*careful contextualization of events that
does justice to the actors involved*

media studies

identifying discursive relations



combined datasets *as* public debates

- how to combine different media into one analysis interface
- distant reading methods (textual emphasis)
- close reading environment (no textual emphasis)

Resource viewer

Projects (none selected)

Bookmark ★

Annotate resource

Related media objects ▼

video

Playing: ANDERE_TIJDEN-NPS00004A4F



Editing: [00:04:19 - 00:05:01]

Start

00:04:19

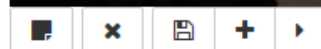
Set

End

00:05:01

Set

DRUGSBELEID



00:04:19

analysis level / meaningful focus point

- public debates as defined by:
 - _agenda setting (production history analysis)
 - _what is *in* the sources (textual analysis)
 - _as received by media consumers (reception research)

analysis level / meaningful focus point

- public debates as defined by:
 - _agenda setting (production history analysis)
 - _**what is *in* the sources (textual analysis)**
 - _as received by media consumers (reception research)

theoretical approach

- artificial nature of public debate requires explicit theoretical approach
- historical contextualization of discursive relations or *strands*
- word clouds/frequency lists allow formulation of thematic queries:

e.g. (xtc OR mdma OR ecsta*y) AND (acid OR house OR acidhouse OR dance)

e.g. (xtc OR mdma OR ecsta*y) AND (politie OR inval OR laboratorium OR onderzoek)

* word cloud functionality has not been incorporated into the MediaSuite yet, but word clouds can be generated with a Jupyter notebook

conclusion

- conceptual approach to “public debates” that
 - is not aimed towards re-constructing particular debates “as they happened”
 - focuses on discursive strands and processes
 - is a result of critical reflection on the research infrastructure

thank you

further reading

- Bron, Marc, Jasmijn van Gorp, Maarten de Rijke. "Media studies research in the data-driven age: How research questions evolve." *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* 67.7 (2015): 1535-1554.
- Van der Molen, Berrie, Lars Buitinck, Toine Pieters. "The leveled approach. Using and evaluating text mining tools AVResearcherXL and Texcavator for historical research on public perceptions of drugs." 2017 arXiv: 1701.00487.
- Van der Molen, Berrie, Toine Pieters. "Distant and close reading of Dutch drug debates in historical newspapers. Possibilities and challenges of big data research in historical public debate research." In: Arun K. Somani, Ganesh Chandra Deka (eds.). *Big Data Analytics. Tools and Technology for Effective Planning*. Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2017: 373-390.

DReAM

<www.clariah.nl/projecten/research-pilots/dream/dream>

<mediasuite.clariah.nl>

<vimeo.com/280716736> CLARIAH summer school 2018 video

b.j.vandermolen@uu.nl

@berrie89 (twitter)