

Grant application proposal form 2019

NWO Talent Programme – Vidi scheme

Applied and Engineering Sciences
Social Sciences and Humanities
Science
Health Research and Development



1. Field of research

1a. NWO domain

- Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES/TTW)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH/SGW)
- Health Research and Development (ZonMw)
- Science (ENW)

1b. Title of the research proposal

Building Peace: Transitional Justice in Early Modern France

1c. Summary

How can societies achieve a lasting peace in the wake of civil war? The United Nations advocate transitional justice, which aims to address wartime grievances and promote reconciliation by means of persecution, truth and reconciliation committees, reparations, and memorials. Because research mostly focuses on recent conflicts, however, it remains difficult to evaluate long-term effectiveness.

To help determine impact, I will develop a **historical framework for transitional justice**. This project investigates the transitional justice mechanisms created in the aftermath of the French Wars of Religion (1562–1598). The Edict of Nantes famously ended the civil wars by allowing religious coexistence between Catholics and Protestants but also created mechanisms to promote peace, including bipartisan courts and peace commissioners. Yet by 1685 King Louis XIV revoked the edict and forced the Protestants to convert. This raises the question how France could have enjoyed a century of religious peace before descending into conflict again.

In my pioneering work on the legacy of the French religious wars, I found that Catholics and Protestants continued to blame each other for wartime offences. To explain the ultimate breakdown of peace, this project postulates that we must study the long-term viability of transitional justice, particularly the commitment of subsequent generations to uphold instituted mechanisms.

The project has three objectives:

1. To analyse the **peacebuilding strategies** of post-war France, asking when and why these came into being, how they operated, who used them, and what grievances they addressed;
2. To explain how transitional justice mechanisms affected **religious coexistence**;
3. To develop a **historical framework for transitional justice** that analyses the effectiveness of past strategies in promoting a lasting peace.

In studying the effectiveness of peacebuilding from a historical perspective, this project will open up an entirely new, interdisciplinary field of study – that of historicising transitional justice.

1d. Keywords

Transitional justice; peacebuilding; civil war; religious coexistence; early modern France

1e. Main field of research

	Field of research:	Code:
Main field of research:	Modern and contemporary history	27.40.00
Other fields of research:	Political science	44.20.00
	Cultural history	27.60.00
	History of religions	35.10.00

1f. Public summary

NL

Vredebouwers in vroegmodern Frankrijk

Hoe kunnen voormalige vijanden duurzame vrede bereiken na een burgeroorlog? Dit project onderzoekt de vredesinstrumenten die werden ontwikkeld na afloop van de Franse godsdienstoorlogen (1562–1598) en analyseert hoe effectief deze oplossingen waren. Historisch onderzoek werpt zo nieuw licht op de langetermijneffecten van vredesstrategieën.

ENG

Peacebuilding in early modern France

How can former enemies achieve a lasting peace in the wake of civil war? This project explores the peacebuilding mechanisms developed after the French Wars of Religion (1562–1598) and analyses how effective these solutions were. Historical research thus sheds new light on the long-term impact of peacebuilding strategies.

2. Research Proposal

2a. Description of the proposed research

2a1. Overall aim and key objectives

This project aims to analyse how post-war societies before the modern age tried to build a lasting peace between former opponents and to explain why these efforts either failed or succeeded.

The rise in civil conflict since the end of the Cold War has prompted a growing interest in peacebuilding strategies that allow former opponents to live side-by-side again and prevent a return to violence. One of the prominent strategies is transitional justice, defined by the United Nations as ‘the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempts to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice, and achieve reconciliation’ (Annan 2004). Such mechanisms include prosecution, reparations, amnesty, the purging of state officials, truth and reconciliation commissions, and communal commemoration (Teitel 2001; Simić 2017a; Lawther, Moffett, and Jacobs 2017).

Transitional justice scholarship, however, has predominantly focussed on recent theatres of conflict, such as the former Yugoslavia, South Africa, and countries affected by the Arab Spring. As a result, it remains difficult to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms in fostering peace. I therefore aim to develop a **historical framework for transitional justice**, to analyse how societies before the modern age dealt with the challenge of peacebuilding and to explain how effective their strategies were over multiple generations.

I will do so by studying **transitional justice in the early modern period**. Because the Reformation had split Christendom into competing Protestant and Catholic communities, early modern Europe experienced civil conflict on an unprecedented scale. Yet the rise of civil war also forced societies to develop new peacebuilding strategies. The project will focus on the aftermath of the French Wars of Religion (1562–1598), a devastating conflict that pitted Catholics against Protestants, also known as Huguenots (Holt 2005). France provides a particularly illuminating case to study early modern transitional justice, because the French state pioneered a wide range of peacebuilding strategies, and because peace eventually failed. The 1598 Edict of Nantes famously ended the wars by ordering religious coexistence between Catholics and Protestants, but in 1685 King Louis XIV revoked the edict and forced the Huguenots to convert through brutal persecution (Labrousse 1985; Cameron, Greengrass, and Roberts 2000; Van der Linden 2015). This raises the question: why did religious peace not hold over time?

The project hypothesises that peace ultimately failed because subsequent generations did not commit to transitional justice. In the immediate aftermath of the French Wars of Religion, Catholics and Protestants made a sincere effort to abide by transitional justice mechanisms that would allow reconciliation. The French state created bipartisan tribunals to adjudicate on wartime disputes and dispatched peace commissioners to settle local grievances. Yet when by 1650 a generation had come of age that had not lived through the wars, these mechanisms were no longer self-evident and came under increasing pressure. Shifting generational attitudes thus undermined religious peace (Van der Linden 2019, 2020).

To analyse the development and long-term impact of transitional justice in early modern France, this project pursues the following three objectives:

1. To identify and analyse the **peacebuilding strategies** of post-war France. A first step in historicising transitional justice is to map the mechanisms used in early modern France, asking when and why these came into being, how they operated, who used them, and what grievances they addressed.
2. To explain why **religious coexistence** in early modern France ultimately failed. Scholars have often argued that Catholics and Protestants managed to live together in peace, but this is to ignore ongoing tensions and a return to conflict during Louis XIV’s reign. This project will offer a new explanation for the breakdown of coexistence in France by analysing the failure of transitional justice.
3. To develop a **historical framework for transitional justice**. Scholars have yet to tap the potential of analysing the long-term impact of transitional justice from a historical perspective. Focusing on early modern France, this project is the first to create a framework for past transitional justice practices that will be applicable to other regions and time periods.

Scientific relevance and challenges

By setting these key objectives, the project engages with three scholarly fields that have been largely separate but will be integrated here for the first time:

1: Peacebuilding in early modern France

The project follows the lead of scholars who have explored peacebuilding in early modern France and Europe more widely, but takes a different point of departure. Historians have generally regarded early modern peacebuilding as the road *towards* peace, rather than its subsequent implementation. As a result, they have mostly focussed on diplomatic negotiations and resulting treaties, such as the Edict of Nantes (1598) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) (Croxtton 2013; Cottret 1997; Christin 1997, 2004). In contrast, this project considers peace as the beginning of a long and tortuous process of implementing and upholding these treaties.

Research will build on the work of scholars who have examined peace strategies during the French religious wars, including peace commissioners, amnesty, and lustration (Finley-Croswhite 1999; De Waele 2010; Roberts 2013; Foa 2015). Yet the effectiveness of peacebuilding *after* 1598 – when Catholics and Protestants were nominally at peace – remains largely unexplored. We will therefore take a longitudinal and trans-generational approach, analysing the **peacebuilding strategies in post-war France** to understand the success and ultimate failure of peace between 1598 and 1685. The aim is to map which mechanisms were set up in the aftermath of the wars, what wartime grievances they addressed, how they operated, and how successful they were in settling disputes.

2: Revisiting religious coexistence

The project challenges scholarship on religious coexistence in early modern France. Historians have argued that communities could overcome confessional conflict through the ‘practice of toleration’. In the wake of the religious wars, Protestants and Catholics regulated their differences through pragmatic arrangements, including parity in law courts and government, the sharing of cemeteries, and the placement of churches outside the public realm. They also lived side-by-side, did business together, and intermarried (Hanlon 1993; Kaplan 2007; Luria 2005; Boisson and Krumenacker 2009; Te Brake 2017).

Yet these studies do not account for the eventual failure of such arrangements, because they tend to downplay ongoing religious tensions and do not offer a long-term analysis. Research on seventeenth-century Montpellier, however, has found that religious animosity in France never disappeared, because Protestants and Catholics continued to blame each other for wartime offences (Diefendorf 2017; Van der Linden 2019). For this reason, this project will explore the **failure of religious coexistence** from a different perspective; it examines to what extent transitional justice mechanisms succeeded or failed in tempering conflict between Catholics and Protestants.

3: Historicizing transitional justice

The project builds on scholarship in the field of transitional justice, which studies how post-conflict societies address wartime crimes to transition to durable peace. Yet because transitional justice scholarship typically examines post-Cold War conflicts, assessing long-term impact remains difficult. Analysing past efforts can provide fresh answers, but to date only very few scholars have discussed instances of transitional justice before the modern age, focusing on ancient Athens, the English civil wars, and the French Revolution (Elster 2004; Brown 2002; Lanni 2010; Harrington 2012; Steinberg 2013).

Although these are helpful starting points, we still lack a comprehensive analysis of pre-modern transitional justice and its effectiveness over time. This project is the first to develop a **historical framework for transitional justice**, using early modern France as a case study to evaluate why peacebuilding mechanisms succeeded or failed in fostering peace. The longitudinal approach is particularly important here, as scholars have argued that the effects of transitional justice can only be assessed after twenty years, or even after an entire generation (Hamber 2012; Reiter 2017a).

By positioning itself at the intersection of transitional justice and early modern history, the project seeks to explain the successes and failures of peacebuilding from a historical perspective. The project questions the assumption that peacebuilding is inherently modern and presents transitional justice as a powerful tool to analyse religious coexistence and conflict in early modern Europe.

Method and approach

To meet the project’s key objectives, this project pursues a **socio-historical methodology** and combines different textual sources. It approaches transitional justice as a historical practice, using the early modern period as test case.

The project takes its cue from the analytical approach proposed by Andrew Reiter, a scholar of transitional justice who has pioneered the assessment of modern-day peacebuilding efforts (Reiter 2017a; Olsen, Payne, and Reiter 2010). The project will be the first to apply this approach to the early modern period, focusing on the following three interrelated levels of analysis:

Micro level: individual experiences

At the micro level, the aim is to examine how individual people and communities experience transitional justice mechanisms, in particular whether victims believe justice is being served. This local approach is particularly important within the context of early modern France. The religious wars had been fought not only on the battlefield but also in cities and villages, where civilians became the victim of sieges, plundering, and massacres. Relying on the tested method of microhistory, which focuses on personal experiences (Magnússon and Szijártó 2013), the project will gather individual testimonies from archival records, including diaries, chronicles, court records, petitions, and verdicts.

Meso level: institutional assessment

At the meso level, the goal is to deliver an institutional assessment of a given transitional justice mechanism, evaluating whether it functioned as intended and achieved its stated goals. Transitional justice scholars typically study the mandate of a selected mechanism, the funding provided, the officials in charge, and any decisions they have taken. In the case of tribunals, for example, a major criterion for evaluating success is the number of cases and verdicts. The institutional approach is also relevant for this project: the bipartisan courts and peace commissioners that we will study have left registers that enable us to measure the number of decisions, analyse the parties involved, and assess to what extent the rulings measured up to the official mandate.

Macro level: comparison and long-term impact

At the macro level, scholars explore the long-term effect of transitional justice mechanisms in fostering peace between antagonistic communities, usually by comparing case studies across time and space. Such comparisons have proven difficult, however, simply because not enough time has passed to evaluate the case studies under review. Hence, this project takes an explicitly historical approach, which can detect trends over longer periods of time. We will analyse the strategies developed in different French regions and across generations to offer a more nuanced assessment of transitional justice strategies.

Originality and innovative character

The project is innovative in two respects:

1. Historicising transnational justice

The project breaks new ground by studying the effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms from a historical perspective. It proposes a novel and interdisciplinary approach that combines historical analysis with the expertise of scholars studying contemporary transitional justice practices to help determine why transitional justice fails or succeeds.

2. Rethinking early modern peace and conflict

The project offers a new explanation for the longevity of war and peace in early modern Europe. Historians have convincingly argued that the tensions between Protestants and Catholics were based on doctrinal differences that emerged during the Reformation. Yet to explain why these conflicts persisted – as they did in early modern France – this project focuses on the success and failure of transitional justice mechanisms.

2a2. Research plan

General design

Three key principles have guided the design of the research team:

- The research team consists of a PhD student and a postdoc – both with expertise in the history of France and/or the history of justice – who will work on case studies that have been selected for their thematic and geographical specificity. The principal investigator (PI) will build on their findings to develop the historical framework for transitional justice in a synthetic study.
- Although the project has been designed with set objectives and a common method, the different sources and thematic focus of the sub-projects ensure that the PhD student and postdoc can develop their own research line.
- The data collected in the individual sub-projects are also relevant for other team members and the PI's synthesising study. To maximize our source base, all data will be stored and shared in a digital environment (see §2e).

The composition of the sub-projects has been informed by the following considerations:

- Whereas the sources for project 1 are circumscribed, material for project 2 will have to be located in archives across France and compared between regions. Because this demands advanced skills, project 2 has been designed as a postdoctoral project. The postdoc will also co-edit the conference volume.
- The team will meet at least once every two weeks to discuss work in progress and discuss relevant literature. All team members will regularly present papers, including at the international conference, which we will organise in year 3. The PhD student will receive additional support by taking part in the Dutch national training programme for History PhD students, the Huizinga School for Cultural History, which offers courses in planning and editing, as well as regular workshops.
- The published output of the project will consist of a minimum of five articles, as well as a collection of essays, one thesis, and a synthetic monograph.

Sub-projects

The project consists of three inter-connected sub-projects:

Project 1. Trial and Error: Transitional Justice in the Bipartisan Courts (PhD student, 1.0 FTE, 4 years)

The objective of this sub-project is to analyse the role of tribunals in fostering peace. The PhD student will focus on the bipartisan courts of early modern France, which adjudicated on wartime disputes between individual Catholics and Protestants. Central questions are: What claims did litigants make? What verdicts did the judges reach? To what extent did these rulings resolve differences? The central hypothesis is that the bipartisan courts succeeded in reaching even-handed sentences, but eventually had their rulings undercut by local authorities questioning their legitimacy.

Transitional justice scholars have argued that criminal justice is an essential element in healing post-war nations because it allows citizens to settle disputes in court rather than resort to vengeful violence. The punishing of war crimes also functions as a powerful deterrent, as victims are more likely to leave the past behind when they see perpetrators are held to account (Teitel 2001; Kerr and Mobekk 2007).

This PhD project tests these assumptions by examining the bipartisan tribunals of early modern France, which were staffed by both Protestant and Catholic judges to ensure an even-handed resolution of disputes arising from the religious wars. The Edict of Nantes created *chambres de l'édit* (Chambers of the Edict) in the *parlements* (courts of appeal) of Paris, Rouen, Bordeaux, Grenoble, and Toulouse. Until their demise in 1679, these courts adjudicated on the restitution of property confiscated during the wars, disputes over the restoration of Catholic worship, and lawsuits that threatened religious coexistence more generally, ranging from theft and murder to disputes over church bells (Capot 1998; Margolf 2004; Van der Linden 2019).

Project 1 builds on the work of scholars who have analysed the functioning of the *chambres de l'édit* and analysed trials handled in the first post-war decade in Paris and Languedoc (Mentzer 1987; Capot 1998; Margolf 2004). However, we still lack a long-term perspective. This sub-project will remedy this gap: it will examine post-war lawsuits throughout the seventeenth century, analysing how litigation evolved, especially when a generation that had not experienced the wars began to seize the courts.

The PhD student will focus on the *chambre de l'édit* of Languedoc, a region with above-average concentrations of Protestants and ongoing religious tensions after 1598. First, a quantitative study will be made of the registers of verdicts covering the years 1598–1679, which are located in series 3B of the Archives départementales de la Haute-Garonne (Toulouse). Next, a qualitative analysis of individual cases handled by the court will rely on a series of unique dossiers, still preserved in their original trial bags (inventoried by Maurin and Amilhaud 2013). Where possible, individual cases will be compared to municipal records, in order to understand the impact of transitional justice on resolving differences.

Project 2. Arbiters of Peace: Local Transitional Justice in Early Modern France (postdoc, 0.8 FTE, 3 years)

The objective of this project is to analyse how early modern peace was implemented locally. The postdoc will focus on the commissioners enforcing the Edict of Nantes, asking the following questions: What mandates did they have? How did they balance religious differences? What impact did they have on local coexistence? The project hypothesises that the earliest commissioners were relatively effective in building peace between Catholic and Protestant communities because both sides accepted their authority. In contrast, the commissioners sent out in the 1660s were less effective, as both parties viewed them as partial.

Transitional justice scholars have emphasised that the cooperation of local communities is crucial to obtain durable peace. Local ownership lends more legitimacy to transitional justice, as stakeholders feel involved and are more likely to abide by decisions than if these are imposed top-down (Shaw, Waldorf, and Hazan 2010; Sharp 2017; Waldorf 2017). Adopting a local perspective is especially important for early modern France, because at a time before the modern nation-state, the monarchy relied on the cooperation of urban and provincial elites to carry out its policies (Beik 1985; Collins 2009). Peace between Catholics and Protestants could only be achieved if communities agreed to implement the Edict of Nantes.

The postdoc will analyse local transitional justice by focusing on royal peace commissioners. Composed of one Catholic and one Protestant magistrate, they toured the provinces to oversee the edict's implementation. Commissioners dealt with the restoration of Catholic worship, the placement of Huguenot churches and cemeteries, and disputes over confiscated property. They also received petitions and complaints on exclusion measures and violations of the edict. Peace commissioners were an enduring feature of French peacebuilding: first sent out during the wars, King Henry IV revived them in 1599, as did Louis XIII in 1610–1630, and Louis XIV in the 1660s (Roberts 2013; Foa 2015; Garrisson 1964; Labrousse 1985).

Building on the studies by Foa and Roberts on the sixteenth-century commissions, this sub-project will examine the post-1598 commissioners. Scholars have mainly focussed on the 1599 missions, arguing they succeeded in reconciling local differences (Rabut 1987; Daireaux 2006, 2010; Hickey 2015). Except for Daireaux' work on Normandy, subsequent commissions have not been studied or compared to other French regions. The postdoc will therefore assess the commissioners' effectiveness by comparing their efforts across time and in different regions. The long-term approach is again crucial because the post-1598 missions differed from their predecessors: whereas previous commissioners had no regional attachment and were neutral, those of the seventeenth century were bipartisan and drawn from local elites (Hickey 2015). These regional and confessional entanglements may well have hindered their efficacy, however, because commissioners could be seen as partial.

The sub-project consists of two parts: (1) a comparison between the commissioners implementing the edict in 1599, those dispatched by Louis XIII in 1610–1630, and those investigating infractions in the 1660s; (2) an analysis of the differences in impact between regions, focusing on Normandy, Poitou, Languedoc and Dauphiny, which experienced ongoing religious tensions after 1598 because of their large Protestant populations. The commissioners' mandates, petitions, and rulings are held in the series BB and GG of municipal archives in key regional cities, including Rouen, La Rochelle, Poitiers, Toulouse, Montpellier, and Grenoble, as well as the Bibliothèque nationale de France (Paris).

Project 3. Transitional Justice in Early Modern Europe (PI, 0.65 FTE, 5 years)

This is a synthesising project. It incorporates the results of projects 1 and 2 to analyse the long-term impact of peacebuilding in early modern France and develops a historical framework for transitional justice.

The first objective is to explain why transitional justice instruments initially succeeded in keeping the peace in post-war France but ultimately failed. The central hypothesis is that religious conflict was reignited because subsequent generations challenged the transitional justice mechanisms created in the aftermath of the religious wars. I will analyse a range of transitional justice mechanisms utilised in early modern France, in addition to the peace commissioners and bipartisan courts studied in the two sub-projects. Amnesties, for example, are often criticised as instruments of impunity but formed a key component of early modern peace agreements, including the Edict of Nantes (McEvoy and Mallinder 2012; Wolfe 1997; Greengrass 2000). The project will also explore informal forms of transitional justice, including commemorations, paintings, and monuments (Simić 2017b; Buckley-Zistel and Björkdahl 2017; Van der Linden 2017, 2019).

*The second objective is to demonstrate that transitional justice predates the modern age, using the early modern period to develop a historical framework for understanding peacebuilding effectiveness. Few scholars have tried to map transitional justice strategies before 1945, because they assume it is a distinctly modern phenomenon. Its origins are generally situated after World War II, when authoritarian societies transitioned to democracy, including Germany and Japan, and more recently countries in Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe (Teitel 2003; Arthur 2009; Reiter 2017b; Quinn 2017). Historians have also largely ignored pre-modern transitional justice. Although Jon Elster, a social and political theorist, has offered an overview beginning in ancient Athens, his narrow focus on transitions from authoritarian rule to democracy leads him to argue that 'there are no important episodes of transitional justice in new democracies between the Athenian episodes and the mid-twentieth century' (Elster 2004, 47–48). The few limited case studies of the French Revolution and the English Civil War do not offer a long-term analysis either (Brown 2002; Harrington 2012; Steinberg 2013). By analysing the *longue durée* of peacebuilding, this project proposes that the early modern period provides fertile ground for assessing the failure and success of transitional justice. As such, it aims to create a new field of study – that of*

historicising transitional justice – that has the potential to revolutionise the way scholars approach the history of religious conflict and coexistence, and which will produce insights applicable to other regions and time periods.

Timetable

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Output
PhD student	Introductory reading; source selection	Archival research; writing thesis; conference paper	Archival research; writing thesis; conference paper; article	Finish thesis		- Thesis - 1 article - 2 conference papers
Postdoc		Archival research; conference paper; article 1	Archival research; conference paper; article 2	Editing conference volume; article 3		- 3 articles - 2 conference papers
PI	Research; implementing project plans	Archival research; conference paper; article	Research; conference paper; start monograph	Research; conference paper; editing conference volume; writing monograph	Finish monograph	- 1 monograph - 1 article - 3 conference papers
All		ICC workshop; ICC outreach project	Organising conference; ICC simulation game	ICC simulation game		- Simulation game - Conference volume

2a3. Host institute and international collaboration

The project will be based at the University of Groningen, which offers a unique possibility to integrate the fields of history, religious studies, and transitional justice. The project will be embedded at Groningen’s Research Centre for Historical Studies and will closely collaborate with:

- (1) The research group ‘Sustainable Societies: Past and Present’, which studies the strategies developed by past societies to achieve social coherence and resolve conflicts.
- (2) The Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalisation at the Faculty of Theology, in particular the cluster ‘Religion, Peace, and Society’. This research group explores the contentious role of religion and the uses of peacebuilding in modern-day societies.
- (3) A team of national and international advisers:
 - Prof. Raymond Mentzer, University of Iowa: historian of religion in early modern France
 - Prof. Penny Roberts, University of Warwick: historian of peacebuilding in early modern France
 - Dr. Tom Hamilton, Durham University: historian of early modern justice
 - Dr. Joram Tarusarira, University of Groningen: social scholar of religion, conflict and peacebuilding
 - Dr. Daniel Blocq, Leiden University: legal scholar, expert on social justice and human rights

These confirmed advisers will also participate in the international interdisciplinary conference of the project, to be held in year 3.

2b. Knowledge utilisation

- Yes, this proposal has the potential of knowledge utilization
 No, this proposal has no direct knowledge utilization

Potential and aims

This research project aims to contribute to a better understanding of how to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation in the wake of civil conflict. As such, its outcomes are highly relevant to contemporary society. The 2016 *Nationale Wetenschapsagenda* (Dutch National Research Agenda) confirms this societal relevance: one of the key questions on the agenda is how to promote peace and address human rights violations in divided nations. Situated at the intersection of contemporary and early modern transitional justice practices, this project stimulates interdisciplinary collaboration between historians, transitional justice scholars, and stakeholders active in the field of transitional justice.

To do so, we will set up a **partnership with the International Criminal Court (ICC)** in The Hague. Established in 2002, the court is the key global stakeholder in transitional justice, prosecuting the perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The PI has already established relations with Michelle Johnson, head of the ICC Public Affairs unit, and has held multiple meetings to discuss the parameters for a collaborative enterprise.

This public engagement aspect of the project has two general aims:

- (1) By offering a historical perspective on transitional justice, we encourage drawing useful comparisons between past and present, which nuance, challenge, and confirm assumptions about the effectiveness of peacebuilding.
- (2) By engaging with contemporary debates, questions from stakeholders will inform our research agenda and contribute to new approaches to historical scholarship. The outreach component of this project thus works both ways.

Beneficiaries, implementation, and output

The collaborative enterprise with the ICC consists of three phases:

(1) Onsite teambuilding

In year 2, we will organise an **interdisciplinary workshop** at the ICC, which will include all project members, ICC policy officers, and transitional justice scholars selected through an open call. The aim of the workshop is to compare transitional justice strategies past and present, to present initial results from the historical research, and to discuss the potential of historicising transitional justice. The focus will be on identifying the most common transitional justice mechanisms in early modern France and comparing them to current-day experiences. These findings will be used to develop a simulation game for schools (see below, phase 3).

(2) International conference

At the end of year 3, the project team will organise a multi-day **international interdisciplinary conference on histories of transitional justice**. We will launch an open call for papers that is explicitly aimed at historians, transitional justice scholars, and ICC stakeholders, asking them to reflect on the impact of modern and pre-modern transitional justice strategies. The team of international advisers will also be invited. The results of the conference will culminate in a scientific volume, jointly edited by the postdoc and the PI in year 4.

(3) Public engagement

Parallel to the ICC workshop and project conference, during years 2–4 the project team and ICC Public Affairs Unit will jointly develop a **simulation game on transitional justice**. The game is aimed at advanced secondary school students (15–18 years). The goal of the simulation game is to actively engage students and allow them to experience the difficulties of reconciling divisions in post-war societies. They will become aware that peacebuilding has a long history and is potentially most successful if we consider past successes and failures.

The game will revolve around scenarios that invite students to reflect on the long-term opportunities and drawbacks of transitional justice mechanisms. Building on the expertise of the ICC and the team's ongoing historical research, the scenarios will be based on recent examples of peacebuilding as well as historical evidence

of transitional justice practices in early modern France, in order to invite cross-temporal comparison. The game will be tested and launched in year 4. It can be used inside the classroom but also at the ICC, coinciding with a visit to the court.

Broadly speaking, the game will introduce students to the following situation: civil war has just ended, and the challenge is to achieve a lasting peace by choosing an effective transitional justice instrument. Students are divided into groups, each of which represents a different pressure group, for example the widows of murdered men; ex-militiamen; a court prosecutor; a returned refugee family; and government officials. Students debate a series of scenarios and dilemmas, which will highlight the complexity of transitional justice practices. For example, should wartime crimes be punished or covered by an amnesty? Students will also have to consider the long-term effects of their choices: if grievances are settled in court, can they be reconsidered after forty years? And should communal commemorations of painful events carry on after the victims are deceased?

To facilitate the development of the game, we will be assisted by the Scholierenacademie, an initiative of the University of Groningen to bring cutting-edge university science to secondary schools, while also responding to a growing demand among teachers for innovative lesson content. The Scholierenacademie relies on a nation-wide network of teachers to ensure its programmes respond to actual needs and can be tested prior to their launch. As such, the feasibility of the proposed game on transitional justice is guaranteed. The team can also benefit from my previous experience in working with the Scholierenacademie; in 2017, we jointly developed the highly successful interactive programme 'Fury after the Iconoclastic Fury', which focussed on traumatic memories of civil war – the programme was sold out within months.

All three phases of the partnership with the ICC proceed from the notion that public engagement is most likely to succeed when it builds on tested infrastructures and collaboration. The knowledge utilisation is directly related to the project's agenda and responds to a confirmed demand by the ICC.

Output summary

- ICC workshop
- international conference
- edited volume
- simulation game

2c. Number of words

Section 2a: **3990**

Section 2b: **948**

2d. Literature references

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2e. Data management section

1. Will data be collected or generated that are suitable for reuse?

Yes: Then answer questions 2 to 4.

2. Where will the data be stored during the research?

Data will be stored on the University's network drive (UWP Data Storage). This storage facility is compliant with the University of Groningen Research Data Policy.

3. After the project has been completed, how will the data be stored for the long-term and made available for the use by third parties? To whom will the data be accessible?

Data available for re-use will be archived in a Dataverse NL Study and will be accessible to other researchers.

4. Which facilities (ICT, (secure) archive, refrigerators or legal expertise) do you expect will be needed for the storage of data during the research and after the research? Are these available?

Storage of data on the University's network drive and archiving data in a Dataverse NL study is fully available and without costs for the researcher.