

## **Deinstitutionalisation: the Dutch way?**

*The deinstitutionalisation of Dutch mental healthcare in a European perspective.*

Date: Thursday 31 October 2019

Venue: Geertekerk, Geertekerkhof 23, 3511 XC Utrecht

In the 1960s, mental healthcare in Europe and the United States embarked on a process of radical change. Under the banner of 'de-institutionalisation', a model of inpatient care centred on psychiatric hospitals, began to make way for community-based ambulant care. The aim was to replace institutional treatment with care and treatment at home, i.e. in the community.

This process was led by countries such as the United States, Italy and England. In the Netherlands, it gradually got under way in the 1980s, and was supported by government policy. There were concrete initiatives for reducing the extent of institutional psychiatry, such as the construction of regional sheltered housing facilities and the introduction of Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT).

Early this century it was nonetheless noted that, proportionally, the Netherlands still had one of Europe's highest numbers of inpatient beds. In 2012, this led to an agreement between the mental healthcare sector and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports to substantially reduce their number.

The question is not only why de-institutionalisation was slower in the Netherlands than elsewhere, but also why it was different. Which factors impeded it, and which advanced it? How does its history compare with the counterpart histories in countries such as Italy, the UK and France? What do these comparisons tell us about the specific nature of Dutch mental healthcare and the context within which it operates?

In the symposium *De-institutionalisation: the Dutch way?* a number of European researchers will describe and analyse the development of de-institutionalisation in their countries. Against this background, the Dutch experience of de-institutionalisation will then be outlined and compared.

The aim of the symposium is to learn from the past. How can the insights we gain by comparing past and present experiences help shape de-institutionalisation in the future? How can healthcare professionals and policymakers benefit from these new insights by extrapolating them to new or current situations?

By researching recent history, we can guide the development of community-based mental healthcare. Partly for this reason, the symposium is intended to provide the substantive and practical impetus for extensive, internationally focused research on the development of de-institutionalisation and community care in the Netherlands.

The symposium is intended for all care professionals, policymakers and historians interested in the history and future of Dutch and European mental health care and de-institutionalisation.

De programme committee

Prof. Joost Vijselaar (Utrecht University)  
Prof. Hans Kroon (Trimbos Institute)  
Dr Christian de Vito (University Bonn)  
Prof. Gemma Blok (Open University)  
Christien Muusse MSc (Trimbos Institute)  
Dr Timo Bolt (EUR Rotterdam)  
Dr René Keet (EUCOMS)  
Prof. Berno van Meijel (Inholland University / Amsterdam UMC)

### Programme

- 8.45 – 9.30 Arrival at conference centre
- 9.30 – 9.50 ***Opening and welcome by the chairman***  
Paul Schnabel  
*Distinguished professor (em.), Utrecht University*
- 9.50 – 10.30 ***Understanding the divergent pathways towards deinstitutionalisation across the UK***  
Dr Vicky Long  
*Senior Lecturer in Twentieth-Century British History, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University, Great Britain*
- 10.30 – 11.10 ***Deinstitutionalisation or Modernization? The Italian Mental Health-care after the Reform***  
Dr Daniele Pulino  
*Adjunct professor of Sociology at University of Sassari, History, human sciences and education Department, Italy*
- 11.10 – 11.40 Coffee break
- 11.40 – 12.20 ***Delayed Reform. Institutionalisation of Transitional Facilities and the Claim of Deinstitutionalisation - Social Psychiatry in Postwar West Germany***  
Prof. Maïke Rotzoll  
*Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany*
- 12.20 – 13.00 ***Beyond deinstitutionalisation: the legacy of the anti-institutional movement and the limits of mental health policy in France, 1980-2020.***  
Dr Nicolas Henckes  
*Researcher CNRS (CNRS research associate), Center for Research in Medicine, Science, Health, Mental Health and Society (CERMES3), Villejuif, France*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

- 14.00 – 14.40 ***The many faces of deinstitutionalisation: the international historiography***  
Dr Timo Bolt  
*Associate Professor of Medical History, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center  
Rotterdam*
- 14.40 – 15.20 ***From half-way house to inclusion: stages in deinstitutionalisation in the Netherlands***  
Prof. Joost Vijselaar  
*Professor of the History of Psychiatry, Department of History and Art History, Utrecht  
University*
- 15.20 – 15.50 Tea break
- 15.50 – 16.30 ***Getting lost on the many roads to Rome? Deinstitutionalisation and community  
integration in the Netherlands at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century***  
Prof. Hans Kroon  
*Professor of community mental health at Tranzo, Tilburg School of Social and Behavioural  
Sciences, Tilburg University and Head of the Department Care and Participation at  
Trimbos Institute, Utrecht*
- 16.30 – 16.40 Closing remarks by the chairman
- 16.40 – 17.30 Drinks