

Dr Maikel H.G. Kuijpers

Male | 23/03/1982 | Dutch

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📖 [Academia](#)



Profile: looking into the past thinking about the future, quality over quantity, intrinsically driven, disciplinary boundaries are myths, skills matter, avid cook, cycling the world

CURRENT

- **Assistant professor in European prehistory**, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University
Research dossier: Making and creating with ages-old knowledge ([interview](#))
- **Post-doc researcher**, NWO funded project: Economies of Destruction. The emergence of metalwork deposition during the Bronze Age in northwest Europe, c. 2300 – 1500 BC
- **Research coordinator**, LDE Centre for Global Heritage and Development
- **Guest researcher**, Delft University of Technology

RELEVANT POSTS AND EDUCATION

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2009-2014 | PhD, University of Cambridge
Marie Curie Fellow in the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013): <i>Forging Identities. The mobility of culture in the Bronze Age.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervisor: Prof Marie Louise Stig Sørensen• Dissertation: Early Bronze Age metalworking craftsmanship. (Passed with minor corrections) |
| 2012-2013 | Affiliated researcher CinBA project, University of Southampton <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and Craft Production in Middle and Late Bronze Age Europe. HERA project (09-HERA-JRP-CI-FP-020) led by Dr J. Sofaer, |
| 2008-2009 | Teaching & Research assistant, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on the results from the Oss-Horzak excavations (1997-2007)• Development and writing of introduction course book on archaeology for high school students + guidance of high school students |
| 2006-2008 | Research Master: Prehistoric farming communities in North West Europe, Leiden University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Master Thesis: “<i>Bronze Age metalworking in the Netherlands c. 2000-800BC</i>” (grade 8.5 /10 and awarded with Van Es prize). |
| 2001-2006 | BA Prehistory of Western Europe
Leiden University, the Netherlands |
| 2002-2006 | BA Photography and film (minor)
Royal Art Academy, The Hague |

 PUBLICATIONS

Monographs:

Kuijpers, M. H. G. 2018 *An Archaeology of Skill: Metalworking Skill and Material Specialization in Early Bronze Central Europe*. London: Routledge, Taylor and Francis group (Routledge studies in archaeology).

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2008 *Bronze Age metalworking in the Netherlands (c. 2000-800BC). A research into the preservation of metallurgy related artefacts and the social position of the smith*, Sidestone press, Leiden.

Articles in refereed journals:

Kuijpers, M. H. G. 2017 'A Sensory Update to the Chaîne Opératoire in Order to Study Skill: Perceptive Categories for Copper-Compositions in Archaeometallurgy', *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*, pp. 1–29. doi: [10.1007/s10816-017-9356-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10816-017-9356-9).

Kuijpers, M. H. G. 2017 'The Bronze Age, a World of Specialists? Metalworking from the Perspective of Skill and Material Specialization', *European Journal of Archaeology*, pp. 1–22. doi: [10.1017/ea.2017.59](https://doi.org/10.1017/ea.2017.59).

Mödlinger, M., Kuijpers, M.H.G., Braekmans, D., Berger, D. 2017 'Quantitative comparisons of the color of CuAs, CuSn, CuNi, and CuSb alloys', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 88, pp. 14–23. doi: [10.1016/j.jas.2017.09.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2017.09.001).

Fokkens, H., Y. Achterkamp, M.H.G. Kuijpers, 2008. Bracers or bracelets? About the functionality and meaning of Bell beaker wrist-guards, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 74, 109-140.

Book sections:

Kuijpers, M.H.G. (in review) Material is the mother of innovation. In: Mignosa, A & K. Priyatej, *A Cultural Economic Analysis of Craft*, Palgrave

Kuijpers, M.H.G. 2015 Some thoughts on quality and skill in Early Bronze Age axes, in: Ball, E.A.G & S. Arnoldussen (eds.), *Metaaltijden 2. Bijdragen in de studie van de metaaltijden*. Sidestone press: Leiden, 19-27

Kuijpers, M.H.G. 2015 Contradicting Context; understanding Early Bronze Age axes from the perspective of production, in: Suchowska-Ducke, P. & S.S. Reiter & H. Vandkilde (eds.), *Forging Identities. The Mobility of Culture in the Bronze Age. Report from a Marie Curie Project 2009-2012 with concluding conference at Aarhus University, Moesgaard 2012: Volume 1*. British Archaeological Reports International Series 2772.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2013 The sound of fire, taste of copper, feel of bronze and colours of the cast: sensory aspects of metalworking technology. In: K. Rebay-Salisbury and M. L. S. Sørensen (eds.), *Embodied Knowledge: Historical Perspectives on Technology and Belief*. Oxford, Oxbow.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2012 Towards a deeper understanding of metalworking technology. In: T.L. Kienlin and A. Zimmermann (eds) *Beyond Elites. Alternatives to Hierarchical Systems in Modelling Social Formations. International Conference at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, October 22-24, 2009*. Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Band 215 Bonn: Rudolf Habelt.

Other:

Kuijpers, M.H.G. 2014 Book review of Hamilakis, Y. *Archaeology and the Senses: Human Experience, Memory, and Affect*. *Norwegian Archaeological Review*.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2011 Nuancing the third emic step – a reply to the criticism. In: Heijnis, A; M. Van Meel; S. Van der Vaart (eds.) *Beyond Technology; re-contextualising ancient crafts*. Graduate School of Archaeology occasional papers , Sidestone press, Leiden.

Kuijpers, M.H.G. & H. Fokkens, 2011 From the organisation. In: Heijnis, A; M. Van Meel; S. Van der Vaart (eds.) *Beyond Technology; re-contextualising ancient crafts*. Graduate School of Archaeology occasional papers, Sidestone press, Leiden.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2008 Aansluitingsmodule Archeologie, ICLON, Leiden.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2007 *Op zoek naar de bronssmid*, Detector Magazine 92.

Kuijpers, M.H.G., 2003 *Bronstijdsmeden in Nederland*, Profiel 10 - 2/3, 102-11, Leiden.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Didactic courses:

2016 **Basic Teaching Qualification (BKO + BKE)**
2010 **Supervision and small group teaching, University of Cambridge**

Full courses taught (evaluation is on the basis of student-responses and graded from 1-5)

2017-2018 **Disruptive Innovations in European Prehistory**
5EC, Masters, 12 students, evaluation: 4.9

Honours Class: The Value of Archaeology Today
BA2 Honours, 9 students, evaluation: 5

2016-2017 **Key developments in European Prehistory**
5EC, Masters, 18 students, evaluation: 4.5

Disruptive Innovations in European Prehistory
5EC, Masters, 19 students, evaluation 4.4

2015-2016 **Current Issues in Prehistoric Research**
5EC, Masters, 11 students, evaluation 4.7

Archaeology, Personhood, and Identity
5EC, Research Masters, 22 students, evaluation: 4.1

Themes in European Prehistory
5EC, Masters, 20 students, evaluation: 4.6

2014-2015 **Current Issues in Prehistoric Research**
5EC, Masters, 21 students, evaluation: 4.3

2011 (Cambridge) **Supervision undergraduate courses**

- Death and Burial
- Religion

2009 **Archaeology for high-school students**

- Online course (aansluitingsmodule)

Thesis supervision:

- 2014 – current **Thesis tutorial class + individual supervision**
- Supervised 10 theses

Guest lectures:

- 2009 – current **>25 guest lectures, e.g.:**
Honours classes, Material culture classes, PABO

PRIZES AND GRANTS

- 2009 **Marie Curie Scholarship**
- Three-year Early Researcher Scholarship in EU funded project
- 2009 **Baguley Prize**
- Prize for the best article in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society (2008).
- 2008 **W.A. van Es Prize**
- Incentive price for young research talent in the Netherlands. Rewarded once every two years for the best thesis in the field of Dutch archaeology, The Netherlands Institute for Heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 2015 – current **Százhalombatta-Földvár, Hungary**
- Site supervisor of the Leiden field-school. Project with Dr M. Vicze (Matricia Museum); Prof MLSS Sørensen (Cambridge) and Prof J. Sofaer (Southampton).
- 06/2016 **Boest, Denmark**
- Co-operative excavation of Museum Midtjylland and the Economies of Destruction team of the site where a deposition of five large EBA axes were found.
- 08/2011 **Borum Eshoj, Denmark**
- Field archaeologist at excavation of Bronze Age burial mound under the supervision of Dr Mads Hølst (part of FI-project).
- 08/2010 **Teleac, Romania**
- Survey of a Late Bronze Age hillfort in Transylvanian region. Led by Dr Nikolaus Boroffka (part of FI-project).
- 07/2010 **Százhalombatta-Földvár, Hungary**
- Field archaeologist at (Middle) Bronze Age tell site under supervision of Dr Magdolna Vicze (part of FI-project).
- 10/2007 **SAN-1, Manzanilla, Trinidad & Tobago**
- Field archaeologist at excavation of small pre-Columbian settlement under supervision of Drs M. Dorst.
- 05/2007 **Oss Zevenbergen, the Netherlands**

- Camera & field archaeologist at the barrow excavation of Zevenbergen conducted by Leiden University.

08/2006

Oss-Horzak, the Netherlands

- Field archaeologist & camera on the large-scale excavation Oss Horzak conducted by Leiden University and Archol

08/2005

Zaozer'e, Russia

- Field archaeologist at Palaeolithic excavation in Zaozer'e near Perm (Ural) under the guidance of Prof W. Roebroeks and Dr P. Pavlov.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

As organiser:

The values of craft. CGHD two-day international workshop, 29-30 Mar. 2018

Nobody is perfect: contrast in craft, Session at the 14th Nordic Bronze Age Forum, Jun. 2017

Ethics and Politics in Archaeology. Forging Identities related workshop co-organized with T.F. Sorensen and M.L.S. Sorensen. 20-21 Nov. 2010

Beyond technology: re-context re-contextualising ancient crafts. Co-organized with Prof H. Fokkens (Leiden University) and Prof T. Kienlin (Ruhr University Bochum). Leiden, 27-27 Oct. 2010.

Invited speaker:

Material knowledge, skill, and the modern economy, Craft meeting, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Mar. 2018

An Archaeology of Skill, Research seminar, Lund University, Nov. 2017

Early Bronze Age metalworking craftsmanship; a world of specialists? Craft production systems in a cross-cultural perspective, Bonn 8-10 April, 2016

Power of the moving image, European Science Open Forum, Turin 2010.

Presentations at conferences (selection):

"How wonderful that we have met with a paradox, now we have some hope of making progress", European Association of Archaeologists (EAA), Maastricht, Netherlands, Sep. 2017

Questions from the world(s) of craft and design, Heritage meeting, University College London, UK, Nov. 2017

A recipe for destruction? Deposited Early Bronze Age axes from a production perspective, Bronze Age Forum, Exeter 7-8 November, 2015

Early Bronze Age metalworking craftsmanship: an evidence-based argument about levels of skill, Archaeometallurgy in Europe IV International Conference, Madrid, Jun. 2015

Creative Copies; the importance of repetition for creativity, CinBA Creativity conference, Cambridge, UK, Jul. 2013

Reappraising chaîne opératoire; adding new theory to an old method, Craft and people conference, British Museum, UK, Nov. 2012.

OUTREACH

Didactic courses:

2017-2018 **Writing for a large audience**

Documentaries:

- 2018 **CRAFT: the future is handmade**
- Documentary on young, well educated, people specifically choosing a craft occupation in times of crisis. Explores the Cartesian dichotomy between knowledge (mind) and practice (hands).
- 2015 **The future of the past begins in Leiden**
- Animation to celebrate the new faculty of archaeology ([link](#))
- 2011 **De Avonturen van super-Barbie. De strijd voor kwaliteit. (The Adventures of super-Barbie; the battle for quality.)**
- Satirical short film to address and open the discussion on the problems of commercial archaeology.
- 2010 **Metalworking film for the National Museum of Antiquities**
- Part of the new exhibition. Soundless documentary on the experimental casting of a sword.
- 2009 **Promotional films Faculty of Archaeology**
- Four small promotional films on the possibilities of studying Archaeology in Leiden for the University website
- Other:**
- 2018 **EPOCH: Early Inventors**
- Board game partly based on my lectures on disruptive innovation in European Prehistory ([link](#))
- 2017 **Democracy in Europe Movement**
- Speaker at DiEM25 event: Technology and its blind spot in political thinking. Presented: *Technological entrapment; a view from the deep past* ([link](#))
- 2017 **InScience Dutch International Science Film Festival**
- Pitch at InVision expert meeting. Topic: *Material is the mother of innovation*
- 2016 **Science4u, Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden**
- Project that allows promising high school students to get acquainted to scientific research at the university (several meetings)
- 2016 **Interview in Danish newspaper**
- On excavation in which we participated ([link](#))
- 2015 **Commentary in Dutch newspaper on new finds Stonehenge**
- Volkskrant ([link](#))
- 2014 **Speaker at Tegenlicht meet-up #29, Europese smaak als wapen**
- Tegenlicht used some of my footage to show in their documentary ([link](#))