

HNA Conference 2022

Wednesday 1 June 2022, Amsterdam

Hall of the University, Singel 411, Amsterdam, 20:00-21:00

Pre-conference event

PUBLIC LECTURE, AMSTERDAM CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN EARLY MODERNITY

Geert Janssen, University of Amsterdam

The Image of the Refugee

Images of refugees have become disturbingly familiar in the 21st century. For all their immediacy and topicality, representations of flight and displacement have a history too, which both clarifies and complicates common perceptions of refugees today. This lecture examines when, why, and how images of refugees first emerged in visual media (e.g. drawing, painting, print) and what their shifting iconography can tell us about their creators, audiences and stake holders. The early modern Low Countries provide some promising starting points in this regard. Revisiting golden age Antwerp and Amsterdam also reveals how the emergence of refugee imagery was linked to global expansion schemes and the rise of humanitarian cultures in Europe.