

Laurens ten Kate
A meaningful life in a just and caring society
Care Ethics

Employment

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University of Humanistic Studies

1 Jan 2020 → present

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Research outputs

Introduction: Cultural and Religious Pluralism in the Age of Imaginaries

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ten Kate, L., Poorthuis, M. (ed.) & Veen, W. (ed.), 17 Jun 2022, *De moderne theologen: Perspectieven op de 21ste eeuw*. Amsterdam: Boom, p. 695-704 and 727-733 15 p.

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God uit het niets. Over de deconstructie van het christendom in het werk van Jean-Luc Nancy

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Hoe normaal is het exces? Een filosofische reflectie over het denken van Bataille

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Activities

Question at defense PhD thesis: Happy Life: Agamben's Poetico-Philosophical Experiment
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7 Oct 2022

Review of PhD thesis: Leren zelf denken en samen leven. Humanistisch vormingsonderwijs op de openbare basisschool
ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
25 Aug 2022

Review of PhD thesis: The Ontological Demand: On the ethics of being-in-common in Jean-Luc Nancy and Achille Mbembe
ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
15 Jul 2022

Review of PhD thesis: Pilgrimage into God with the whole of being: A reconstruction, evaluation and exploration of the contemporary relevance of John Main's meditation-oriented spirituality
ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
3 Jun 2022

Review of PhD thesis: "Cultural Mélange in the Twenty-first Century: Land Resource Practices in Ngwa Land, Southeast Nigeria"
ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
17 Mar 2022

On Earth and Other Territories. Review Grant application prof. Ph. Leonard, Leverhulm Trust
ten Kate, L. (Participant)
2022

Review of PhD thesis: Pluralism, Democracy, and Internal Minorities A CASE STUDY OF THE PASMANDA-MUSLIM COUNTERPUBLIC IN INDIA

ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
17 May 2021

Question at defense PhD thesis: 'Seit ein Gespräch wir sind': Language and dialogical experience in Hegel

ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
12 Mar 2021

Review of PhD thesis: Luther after Derrida The deconstructive thrust of theology

ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
15 Aug 2020

Review of PhD thesis: In de ogen van Medusa – Dansen op de grafgrond. Transgressie, shock en sacraliteit als maskerade van de dood in hedendaagse kunst en beeldcultuur

ten Kate, L. (Examiner)
15 Jun 2020

Press/Media

Extended Curriculum Vitae

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Date of Birth: 29 May 1958

Professional Profile

2015 – present Endowed Professor of Liberal Religion and Humanism

2014 – present Associate Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Globalization Theory

2017 – present Coordinator of and researcher in the International Research Consortium Simagine: Social Imaginaries between Secularity and Religion in a Globalizing World (Global North-South research cooperation around Social Imaginaries and Religion from decolonial perspectives)

2012 – present Coordinator and supervisor of the collaborative research program 'Religion, Migration and Human Trafficking', UvH with the Centre for African Studies of the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, and the Centre against Human Trafficking, The Hague, the Netherlands

2012-present Lecturer at the International School of Philosophy, Leusden, the Netherlands

2016 – 2017 Acting Head of Department: Dept. of Globalisation – and Dialogue Studies, UvH) and member of the University Management Team (with dr. Carolina Suransky)

2014 – 2015 Visiting researcher at VU University Amsterdam: Director of the program 'Metamorphoses of Christianity

2008 – 2012 Joint Coordinator of the multidisciplinary research group 'Citizenship in Intercultural Societies', UvH

2006 - 2012 Coordinator of the international research project 'Deconstructions of Monotheism'; chief editor of volume Re-treating Religion: Deconstructing Christianity with Jean-Luc Nancy (2012)

2001 – 2007 Senior guest researcher at the Heyendaal Institute for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion and Society, University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands

1996-2001 Coordinator of the international research project 'Negative Theology in Contemporary Philosophy of Culture'; chief editor of volume Flight of the Gods: Philosophical Perspectives on Negative Theology (2000)

1996 – 1999 Postdoc researcher, Theological University of Kampen, the Netherlands

1994, 1998 Guest lecturer University of Stellenbosch, Department of Philosophy

1993 – 1996 Lecturer in modern philosophy of religion and culture, Catholic Theological University, Utrecht

Education

1994 PhD (cum laude) – Dep. of Philosophy of Culture, Catholic Theological University, Utrecht

1980, 1984 BA resp. MA in Theology and Philosophy, Faculty of Theology, University of Utrecht

2019 Senior Qualification Education (SKO, Higher Education)

Selected publications

Laurens ten Kate (2021). Raising Death: Resurrection between Christianity and Modernity A Dialogue with Jean-Luc Nancy's Noli me Tangere, in Angelaki. Journal of Theoretical Humanities, 26-3/4, pp. 195-206. With a response from J.-L. Nancy. Open access: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0969725X.2021.1938414>

Noortje Luning, Laurens ten Kate, Rijk van Dijk (2021). *A Question of Faith: An Explorative Pilot Study on the Relationship between West African Religion, Migration and Human Trafficking*, research report published by Centre Against Children and Human Trafficking, The Hague, in collab. with Centre for African Studies, University of Leiden and UvH, 50 pp.

Gaby Jacobs, Annelieke Damen, Caroline Suransky, Laurens ten Kate (2021). *Reconsidering Humanist Chaplaincy for a Plural Society: The Implications for Higher Professional Education, in Health and Social Care Chaplaincy*, Vol. 9-1 (February 2021). Special issue 'Religious, Spiritual, Pastoral and Secular'.
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Laurens ten Kate, Arjan Braam, Rijk van Dijk, Jette van Ravesteijn, Fenna Bergmans (2020). *Professional and Religious Approaches to Care for West African Victims of Human Trafficking in The Netherlands: The Challenge of New Pentecostalism*, in *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 25 pp. Open access:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15562948.2020.1839993>.

Laurens ten Kate, Ernst van den Hemel (2020). *Religion, Community, Borders – Tensions and Interactions between Religious, Cultural and National Imaginaries in Neoliberal Times. An Introduction*, in *Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion & Transformation in Contemporary Society*, 5, pp. 258-280.
 Special thematic issue 'Religion, Community, Borders: Social Imaginaries and the Challenge of Pluralism', guest-editors L. ten Kate & E. van den Hemel.

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- Laurens ten Kate, Alena Alexandrova, Ignaas Devisch, Aukje van Rooden, 'Re-Opening the Question of Religion: Dis-Enclosure of Religion and Modernity in the Philosophy of Jean-Luc Nancy (Introduction)', pp. 22-40.
- Laurens ten Kate, 'God Passing by: Monotheism as Atheism', pp. 132-144.
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Laurens ten Kate, Caroline Suransky (2010). De samenleving tussen haakjes. Een dialoog met Willem Schinkel over burgerschap, interculturaliteit en sociale hypochondrie' (Society between Brackets: A Dialogue with Willem Schinkel on Citizenship, Interculturality and Social Hypochondria), in *Tijdschrift voor Humanistiek (Journal for Humanistic Studies)* 11, pp. 43-44.

Laurens ten Kate (2009). Zwischen Immunität und Unendlichkeit. Der Ort in Peter Sloterdijk's Sphärologie, im Hinblick auf seine Philosophische Analyse des christlichen Erbes, in S. van Tuinen, M. Jongen, K. Hemelsoet (eds.), *Die Vermessung des Ungeheueren. Philosophie nach Peter Sloterdijk*, München: Fink Verlag, pp. 120-129.

Laurens ten Kate (2008). Outside in, Inside Out: Notes on the Retreating God in Nancy's Deconstruction of Christianity, in *Bijdragen* 69 (3), pp. 305-320.

Laurens ten Kate (2008). Intimate Distance: Rethinking the Unthought God in Christianity, in *Sophia*, vol. 47-3, pp. 327-343.

Laurens ten Kate (2007). Intuitions of the Other: An Analysis of Anschauung in Schleiermacher's On Religion – with References to Kant, in *Literature and Theology* 21 (4), pp. 393-403.

Laurens ten Kate, Bart Philipsen, Erik Borgman (2005). Desperate Affirmation: On the Aporetic Performativity of Memoria and Testimony in the Light of W.G. Sebald's Story "Max Ferber", with a Theological Response, in *Literature and Theology* 19 (3), pp. 200-220.

Laurens ten Kate (2002). 'Econokenosis: Two Meanings of Kenosis in Postmodern Thought', in O. Zijlstra (ed.), *Letting Go: Rethinking Kenosis*, Bern: Peter Lang, pp. 285-310.

Laurens ten Kate, Ilse N. Bulhof (eds.) (2000). *Flight of the Gods: Negative Theology in Contemporary Philosophy of Culture*, New York: Fordham University Press, Series 'Perspectives in Continental Philosophy', 420 pp.

- Ilse N. Bulhof, Laurens ten Kate, 'Echoes of an Embarrassment: Philosophical Perspectives on Negative Theology: an Introduction', pp. 1-57

- Laurens ten Kate, 'The Gift of Loss: A Study of the Fugitive God in Bataille's Atheology', pp. 249-291.

Laurens ten Kate (1998). Randgänge der Theologie. Prolegomena einer "Theologie der Differenz" im Ausgang von Derrida und Barth, in *Zeitschrift für dialektische Theologie* 14-1 (1998), pp. 9-31.

In reworked form also published as *Randvelde van die teologie*, in *Fragmente. Tydskrif vir Filosofie en Kultuurkritiek* 4, Unisa University, Johannesburg (1999), pp. 113-130.

Laurens ten Kate, Harry Haarsma (1995). The Necessity of a Word, an Image, in C. Jacobs (ed.), *Spiraal. Tien dialogen tussen kunst en filosofie (Spiral: Ten Dialogues between Art and Philosophy)*, Rotterdam (Centre for Visual Arts), pp. 57-77.

Laurens ten Kate (1992). Paroles de contrainte, paroles de contagion. Recherches d'une fiction non-fictionnelle à partir de l'oeuvre de Bataille, in H. Hillenaar, J. Versteeg (eds.), *Cahiers de recherches des instituts néerlandais de langue et de littérature française (Crin)* nr. 25, pp. 5-35.

Books under contract and guest editorships for journals in progress

Laurens ten Kate, Bram van Boxtel (eds.), *Cultural and Religious Pluralism in the Age of Imaginaries*. Special thematic issue of the international journal *Religions*, 2022.

Laurens ten Kate, Andrew Hass, Mattias Martinson, *The Music of Theology: Language – Space – Silence*. London: Routledge Academic Publishers, 350 pp., 2022.

Laurens ten Kate, Philip Leonard, Peter Gratton (eds.), *The World in Theory: Rethinking Globalization through Derrida and Nancy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 400 pp., 2022.

Recent selected academic and public lectures, seminars, workshops etc.

From Iconoclasm to Visual Culture: Theories of Imagination in Western Thought – summerschool ISVW (International School of Philosophy), Leusden, the Netherlands. 23-27 Aug. 2021.

Crises of Disenchantment: Religious Imaginaries and the Transition of Secular Society – Annual conference NOSTER: The Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion. 5 Nov. 2020.

De woorden en de dingen (The Order of Things) – summerschool on Michel Foucault: ISVW (International School of Philosophy), Leusden, the Netherlands. 17-21 Aug. 2020.

Thinking in Times of Acceleration: In Search for Alternatives to Neoliberalism with Hartmut Rosa – summerschool ISVW (International School of Philosophy), Leusden, the Netherlands. 15-19 July 2019.

Social Imaginaries and Transcendence – lecture, Simagine panel organization and moderation panel 'The Imaginary Truth: Social Imaginaries between reality and fiction in a visual world': Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, Uppsala. 28-30 Sept. 2018. With prof. Tom Carlson (University of California) and prof. Martin Crowley (Queens' College, University of Cambridge, UK).

The Ends of Globalization – organization Simagine panel, opening lecture and moderation: 57th conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. 18-20 Oct. 2018. With dr. Stijn Latré.

Die Macht des Heiligen – opening lecture at and moderation of conference with Hans Joas: UvH. 12 Dec. 2018.

Prolegomena to a Theory of Image, Space, and Play, Starting from the Concept of Social Imaginaries – lecture at the Simagine conference 'Social Imaginaries an Art in a Globalizing World': VUB University, Brussels. 30 May 2018.

Guest lectures on imagination theory in art and philosophy – Queens' College, University of Cambridge, UK. 29 May and 1 June 2017.

Theories of Creation in Peter Sloterdijk's Spherology – lecture at the conference 'Peter Sloterdijk 70': Hochschule für Medien & Gestalt, Karlsruhe, Germany. 23-25 June 2017.

De vreemde vrijheid. Nieuwe betekenissen van vrijzinnigheid en humanisme in de 21st eeuw (Strange Freedom: New Meanings of Liberal Religion and Humanism in the 21st Century) – inaugural lecture: UvH. 11 May 2016.

Hope and Despair in St. Paul – opening lecture, organization and moderation of the conference of the 'Metamorphoses of Christianity' platform 'Hope against Hope', with prof. John D. Caputo: VU University, Amsterdam. 27 Oct. 2016.

The Imaginary Confession: Social Imaginary Theory and Virtual Worlds – lecture at the conference 'Identity on the Internet': University of Luzern, Switzerland. 14 Dec. 2015.

Derrida, Religion and Globalization – lecture and panel organization at the conference 'Derrida Today', Fordham University, New York. 28-30 May 2014. With prof. Philip Leonard and prof. Peter Gratton.

Christianity Exhausted? Metamorphoses of Faith in the Secular Age – opening lecture, seminar paper, organization and moderation of the conference of the 'Metamorphoses of Christianity' platform, with Jean-Luc Nancy: VU University, Amsterdam. 10-11 June 2014.

Guest lectures on axial theory and on sacrifice – Queens' College, University of Cambridge, UK. 24 Febr. and 10 March 2014.

Notes on the Limits of Sacrifice, in Dialogue with Taylor, Blumenberg and Nancy – key note lecture at the conference 'Radical Secularization': Centre Pieter Gillis, University of Antwerp. 20-21 Sept. 2012.

Quality Assessment work in Academic Research

2020 – present Chair of the review committee of the NWO funding program Open Competition in the Humanities & Social Sciences

2015 – present Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Titus Brandsma Institute for the Study of Spirituality, University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands

2015 - 2019 Member of the review committee of the NWO funding program for teacher-PhD-research ('Promotiebeurs leraren')

Academic Fellowships and Research Grants

2014, 2017 Senior fellow researcher and teacher at Queens' College, Cambridge UK (Erasmus grants)

2016-2020 Grant from the NWO funding program 'Internationalization in the Humanities', for the development of the international research consortium 'Simagine'

PhD supervision

2021 – present Beatrijs Hofland: 'Course of Life, Care and Community in a Plural Society – Aging between Social Change and Continuity'. Copromotor: dr. Froukje Pitstra

2021 – present Lize-Mari Mitchell: 'Collaborative Online International Learning: A Transformative Opportunity for Students Towards the Development of Intercultural Competence'. Copromotor: dr. Carolina Suransky

2020 – present Bram van Boxtel: 'Social Acceleration and Resonance: A Critical Analysis of Hartmut Rosa's Contribution to Life Course, Education, and a New Understanding of Worldviewing and Religion'. Copromotors: dr. Isolde de Groot and dr. Fernando Suárez-Müller. Honorary advisor: prof. Hartmut Rosa (University of Jena, Germany)

2020 – present Aart Goedhart: "'Ubi Dubium, Ibi Libertas". Meaning making in Impasses in Decision Making Processes.' Second promotor. Main promotor: prof. Joke van Saane (UvH)

2019 – present Amalia Deekman: 'Understanding Cultural Participation: The Case of the Bijlmer Gospel Music Festival in the Netherlands'. Second promotor: prof. Evert Bisschop Boele (Erasmus University, Rotterdam)

2012 – 2020 Pieter Blank: 'An Activating Theory for ICT-Projects in Governmental Organizations, against the background of Peter Sloterdijk's Spherology'. Second promotor. Main promotor: prof. Alexander Maas (UvH)

2009 – 2015 Beate Giebner: 'A Shared Space: Receptivity of Caregivers in Contacts with Patients'. Second promotor. Main promotor: prof. Dick Willems (University of Amsterdam)

2008 – 2012 Femke Kaulingfreks: 'Making Trouble: Disruptive Interventions of Urban Youth as Unruly Politics'. Copromotor. Main promotor: prof. Harry Kunneman (UvH)

2008 – 2011 Konstantina Georgelou: 'Performless: The Operation of l'informe in Postdramatic Theatre. Copromotor. Main promotor: prof. Maaïke Bleeker (University of Utrecht)

2006 – 2012 Mieke Moor: 'Between the Lines: An Aesthetic View on Violence of Organization'. Copromotor. Second promotor: prof. Ruud Kaulingfreks. Main promotor: prof. Hans Alma

1998 – 2002 Joost de Bloois: 'Bataille, Derrida et l'économie générale'. Copromotor. Second promotor: prof. Jean-Luc Nancy (University of Strasbourg, France). Main promotor: prof. Maarten van Buuren (University of Utrecht)

1996 – 1999 Klaas IJkema: 'Nietzsche in the Hermeneutic of K.H. Miskotte'. Copromotor. Second copromotor: dr. Onno Zijlstra. Main promotor: prof. Gerrit Neven (Theological University of Kampen, the Netherlands)

Editorial Positions

2016 – present Member of the Advisory Board of the journal *Limina*. Grazer Theologische Perspektive

2015 – present Member of the Advisory Board of the journal *Shift*. International Journal of Philosophical Studies

1997 – 2012 Acquiring editor in philosophy and religious studies, Boom Academic Publishers, Amsterdam (part time)

Other

Since 2002 I work at the University of Humanistic Studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. This small, college-like institute with a blend of humanities and social sciences, is an inspiring environment for my teaching and research. The university is an intense community of students and scholars finding a balance between high level science and social and political engagement; it also forms a stepping stone to my international academic activities.

Since long I am based in the lovely town of Utrecht, with my wife Heleen and sons Schalk and Herre.