

Keynote lecture

Friday, 22 September 2017, 10.00 s.t.

Bread, fish and stone. Local memories and religious change in the Dutch Republic

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Local memory practices in early modern Europe often originated in religious practices; medieval cities commemorated significant events by honouring patron saints, feasts and processions, and with inscriptions and images in public places. The Reformation of course played havoc with many local memory practices: some practices and memories were declared obsolete, or even godless, others appropriated for new uses. Moreover, new memory practices emerged around local reformations themselves. Yet especially in post-Reformation communities that were and remained religiously divided, the religious meaning of local memories could become contested. Focusing on the town of Leiden this paper explores how Reformation memories were nevertheless remediated by pre-Reformation local traditions, and how material objects with religious connotations, especially bread, fish, and stone, were used to bridge the gaps between past and present, overwrite memories of schism, and instead assert providential continuity in local religious history.