

## Commerce & Urban Rivalry in the Low Countries, 1250-1650

Tuesday, January 28th 2014

13.00-18.30

W. Elsschotzaal, Hof van Liere (University of Antwerp)

Prinsstraat 13b, 2000 Antwerpen (Belgium)

This workshop aims to bring together a varied selection of scholarly specialists to reflect on the topic of Oscar Gelderblom's recent book 'Cities of Commerce.' The workshop wishes to single out the possible directions for future research in this field of historical enquiry.

### Programme

13.00: *Welcome*

**Henk De Smaele**, head of the History Department (University of Antwerp)

13.10: *Introduction to 'Cities of Commerce'*

**Peter Stabel**, Professor of Medieval History (UA)

13.25 *'Cities of Commerce'*

**Oscar Gelderblom**, Associate Professor of Economic History (Utrecht University)

13.45: *Institutions and their Discontents: Commercial Competition and Schumpeterian Success Schemas*

**Thomas Max Safley**, Professor of Early Modern European History (University of Pennsylvania)

14.10: *Comments on the Cities of Commerce*

**Leo Lucassen**, Professor of Social History (Leiden University)

14.35: *The Case of Bruges: International Merchants between Consular, Urban and Princely Courts*

**Bart Lambert**, post-doctoral researcher (University of York) &  
**Jan Dumolyn**, Professor of Medieval History (Ghent University)

15.00: Coffee break

15.20: *Comments on the Cities of Commerce*

**Guillaume Daudin**, Professor in Economics (Université Paris-Dauphine)

15.45: *A commerce of Cities?*

**Bruno Blondé**, Professor of Early Modern History (University of Antwerp)

16.10: *Reply*

Reply by **Oscar Gelderblom**, Associate Professor of Economic History (Utrecht University)

16.40: Plenary session

Moderated by **Hilde Greefs**, Professor of Modern History (University of Antwerp)

17.30: Drinks

## CITIES OF COMMERCE



*The Institutional Foundations of International Trade  
in the Low Countries, 1250-1650*

Oscar Gelderblom

**Cities of Commerce. The Institutional Foundations of International Trade in the Low Countries, 1250-1650 (Princeton University Press, 2013)** traces the successive rise of Bruges, Antwerp, and Amsterdam to commercial primacy between 1250 and 1650 within the context of a competitive urban network that promoted open-access institutions in the Low Countries. With this book Oscar Gelderblom challenges influential theories that attribute the growth of trade in Europe before the Industrial Revolution to the political strength of merchants.

**Oscar Gelderblom** is associate professor of economic history at Utrecht University. His publications deal with financial markets, trade, entrepreneurship, collective action, migration, political economy, and cleanliness.

**Organisers:** Jeroen Puttevils (UA), Wouter Ryckbosch (UA & VUB), Jessica Dijkman (UU), Peter Stabel (UA).

This workshop is realised with the **financial support** of:

History Department University of Antwerp  
Vlaamse Werkgroep Mediëvistiek  
N.W. Posthumus Institute  
IAP 7/26 programme 'City and Society in the Low Countries.'

**Participation** is free, but registration is required: [wouter.ryckbosch@uantwerpen.be](mailto:wouter.ryckbosch@uantwerpen.be).

**Route description:** <https://www.uantwerpen.be/nl/campusleven/op-weg-naar-de-campus/stadscampus-paardenmarkt-mutsaard/>