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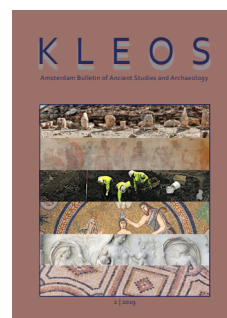
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A platform for Dutch academic archaeology

Last year, The Dutch National Research School for Archaeology ARCHON moved its office from the University of Leiden to Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, with dr. Philip Verhagen taking up the position of scientific director. Also, IJk van Hattum started working as the new coordinator for ARCHON in October 2018. This change of residence was a good occasion to reassess ARCHON's role in Dutch academic archaeology and to make plans for the next five years.

ARCHON is responsible for organizing the educational programme from RMA and PhD students in archaeology in the Netherlands. In order to achieve this goal, ARCHON (co-) organizes and subsidizes all kinds of educational events, such as seminars, skills courses and conferences. Information on the current agenda and how to register for events and apply for subsidies can be found on our website www.archonline.nl. Being an inter-university institute, ARCHON's priority is to make sure that educational activities are attractive to as many students as possible.

An evaluation of past performance, however, has made clear that the role of ARCHON is not always very evident to students and staff. Staff members are usually underrepresented in our educational activities. At the same time, they would like ARCHON to be a more active platform for academic debate. For this reason, we are currently setting up Working Groups that can act as sub-disciplinary networks within the Dutch academic archaeological community. These Working Groups should take the initiative for more frequent and more regular educational and networking events. At the moment we are focusing on groups that are already collaborating within Dutch archaeology, in order to offer them a platform within ARCHON. However, we are very much interested in getting in touch with anyone who wants to set up such a Working Group. ARCHON can offer Working Groups logistical and financial support for organizing events as well as a space on our website to reach ARCHON members.

A second initiative we have taken is to organize the annual

Archon is the Dutch inter-university research and graduate school for archaeology. It unites staff members, PhD students and Research Master students of its participating institutions.

► [Website](#)

ARCHON Day in a different way in order to generate more debate and ideas for events. On 26 October 2018 we tried out a new format with two workshops and a panel discussion (<http://www.archonline.nl/october-2018/26-october-2018-archon-day/>). The first workshop discussed the role of publishing for young scholars and the effects of changes in publication culture on academic careers. From this, it was concluded that a larger meeting dedicated to publication would be very useful, especially where it concerns non-traditional forms of publication, for example on social media. We will therefore work towards such a meeting in 2019. The second workshop, on the relationship between academic research and non-academic archaeology, was also very well received, and will most probably also get a follow-up this year. All in all, we conclude that that we will pursue involving the ARCHON members in developing our agenda in the future.

Furthermore, ARCHON has worked to improve its visibility to the archaeological academic community by redesigning its website and taking a more active role on social media, in particular through our Facebook page where we now post announcements and reminders of all our activities, as well as job and grant offers. Content for this page can always be submitted by ARCHON members, provided it is within the ARCHON sphere of interest. If you are interested in contributing to a Working Group or to organize an educational activity, ARCHON can be contacted by e-mail at secretary@archonline.nl. Also, we are always looking for members who are interested to join our Steering Committee, where we discuss educational activities and evaluate requests for subsidies. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

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