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2020

Annual Report Erasmus Prize
Grayson Perry



Annual Report Erasmus Prize 2020



Colophon

Annual Report Erasmus Prize Foundation
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Images

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Published by Praemium Erasmianum Foundation

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Preface

In 2020 the Erasmus Prize was awarded to the British artist Grayson Perry. The prize-winner was festively announced in the presence of an eclectic mix of journalists in the heart of the British art world: *The Royal Academy of Arts* in London. “Perry wins Erasmus Prize for his democratic and inclusive practice,” ran the headlines in the international press.

Grayson spoke of how moved he was by this “European recognition for his art”. The Dutch roots of the Erasmus Prize made the award all that more special, he said: “It was in Amsterdam that I broke through with my exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum in 2002, which resulted in my winning the Turner Prize. I then strengthened my reputation in Maastricht with another precious exhibition at the Bonnefantenmuseum in 2016.”

The announcement was covered by correspondent Tim de Wit on the main evening news on Dutch television and on the Nieuwsuur current affairs programme. Before the extended Nieuwsuur broadcast, the new item about Perry was dropped on account of the main story that — on the same day that the Erasmus Prize laureate for 2020 was announced — the first case of COVID-19 in the Netherlands had been reported.

Owing to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic — and the accompanying measures taken at home and abroad, the board of the foundation decided in the autumn to postpone the award ceremony and accompanying

events until 2021. Under the prevailing conditions, it was not possible to present the oeuvre of the laureate to the public in a way that reflected the ambition of the foundation. We are therefore eagerly looking forward to the festive award ceremony and a wide-ranging programme of activities in 2021.

In 2020 the foundation did, however, award its annual Dissertation Prizes to five young doctoral candidates for their exceptional scholarly achievements. The award ceremony took place digitally on 23 June 2020, the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the prize. The online presentation ceremony — during which the jury members delivered laudations and the doctoral candidates made short presentations about the next steps in their work — was enthusiastically followed from the universities and research institutes.

In the autumn we were honoured to receive a gift of the complete collection of 20 volumes of published correspondence by Desiderius Erasmus in Dutch by the Patron of the Foundation. His Majesty the King was presented with these publications by the publisher Ad. Donker at Paleis Noordeinde. On this occasion the Patron in turn donated the collection to the Foundation. It now occupies an honourable place in the library.

Jet de Ranitz, chair
Shanti van Dam, director

Announcement of 2020 laureate

The Praemium Erasmianum Foundation invites you to a press conference to announce the recipient of The Erasmus Prize 2020

Thursday 27 February 2020

8.30am Refreshments

9.00am Press conference

The Academicians Room (entrance via The Keeper's House)

Royal Academy of Arts

Burlington House, Piccadilly

London W1J 0BD

RSVP: yasmin@reesandco.com / +44 (0) 203 137 8776

#ErasmusPrize

The Erasmus Prize is awarded annually to a person or institution that has made an exceptional contribution to the humanities, the social sciences or the arts, in Europe and beyond. His Majesty the King of the Netherlands is Patron of the Foundation. The Erasmus Prize consists of a cash prize of €150,000. The prize will be presented in the autumn of 2020.

www.erasmusprijs.org



On Thursday 27 February the winner of the Erasmus Prize 2020 was announced at a press conference held at *The Royal Academy of Arts* in London.

Director Shanti van Dam first thanked Axel Rüger, director of the *Royal Academy of Arts* and former member of the board of the Erasmus Prize, for his hospitality at this important venue in the art world. In front of the assembled press, she then put the importance of the prize in perspective by listing the previous Erasmus Prize laureates from the United Kingdom. Among the list of winners is Henri Moore, who – just like the 2020 laureate – won the prize in 1968 for his contribution to ‘visual arts’.

She explained that: “Grayson Perry will receive the prize for the insightful way he tackles questions of beauty and craftsmanship while addressing wider social and cultural issues. The board of the Erasmus Prize praises the way in which Perry developed a unique visual language, demonstrating - in life and work - that art belongs to everybody and should not be an elitist affair.”

In his response, Perry recalled his exhibitions in the Netherlands, which marked a breakthrough for him on two occasions. Asked for his reaction to this award, in the many questions put to him, he noted how much the humanistic values promoted by the Foundation meant to him.

“he tackles questions of beauty and craftsmanship while addressing wider social and cultural issues”



Director Shanti van Dam announced the winner of the Erasmus Prize 2020 at the Royal Academy of Arts



Erasmusprijs naar provocateur en 'pottenbakkende travestief' Grayson Perry



'An absolute delight.' THE OBSERVER

GRAYSON PERRY
MANNEN

WINNAAR
ERASMUS
PRIJS
2020

Balans



Erasmus Prize 2020 Grayson Perry Media coverage



Weekendgids Grayson Perry. 'We moeten af van het idee dat er maar één soort mannelijkheid is'



De man moet op de schop, vindt kunstenaar en Weekendgids Grayson Perry. Zelf veldtoe de zelfverklaarde 'pottenbakkende travestiet' alvast niet aan het stereotype manbeeld.

Beelden van 1000 | 11 oktober 2020, 10:02

Evening Standard

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020

£200,000 art competition for Kubrick location

Robert Cox

It's famously stated in Sir Stanley Kubrick's *Moon* vision of the future in a Clockwork Orange but now it's hoped Thamesmead will inspire a different kind of artistic vision.

Housing Association Peabody has launched the Thamesmead Open competition with a £200,000 fund to create art for the area.

The open call is part of a plan to revitalize the area, which is expected to gain thousands of new residents in the next 10 years, in a scaled bid.

Adriana Mangan, head of cultural strategy for Thamesmead at Peabody, said culture was "an essential part" of making the area better.

She added: "We want people who would call Thamesmead home. A home for culture is our great aim."

The competition winner will be announced in June and the project has to be finished by March 2022.



£126k prize? I make pots for the average Joe, says Perry

GRAYSON PERRY said accepting a £126,000 award (£200,000 prize) is part of his aim of reaching 'the average Joe on the sofa'.

The Erasmus Prize – for exceptional contribution to culture, society, or social science in Europe – will be presented by Dutch King Willem-Alexander. Perry said: "When I get the letter I said to my daughter: 'Should I accept this?' and she just said: 'Don't be so affected! It all helps because accessibility is a part of what I want to do which is make art an ordinary part of life but a stimulating part of it. I'm not really taking to the art world, I'm more interested in the average Joe on the sofa.'"

Perry, who regularly dresses as his alter ego Claire, won the Turner Prize in 2003 for his highly decorated pots.

The foundation which organizes the prize praised Perry's "original" way of tackling "heavy and controversial" subjects.

Robert Cox



Erasmus Prize Perry praised for 'unique' art

Grayson Perry has been awarded the Erasmus Prize, praised for his 'unique' art.

The award is given to people who have made a significant contribution to culture, society or social science in Europe.

The prize is named after Desiderius Erasmus, a Dutch philosopher, humanist and writer.

Perry, who regularly dresses as his alter ego Claire, won the Turner Prize in 2003 for his highly decorated pots.

The foundation which organizes the prize praised Perry's "original" way of tackling "heavy and controversial" subjects.

Robert Cox



ARTnews



Anger after Grayson Perry claims Covid will clear arts of 'dead wood'

Artist accused of being out of touch for comments published on hundreds of gallery and museum staff face job losses

Grayson Perry has drawn criticism from fellow artists after claiming the recovery from Covid-19 will clear galleries of "dead wood".

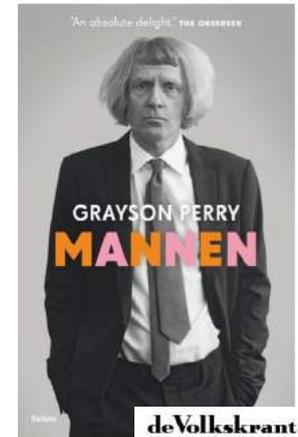
"I think every part of life has probably got a bit of fat that needs trimming," Perry told the arts industry magazine. "It's awful that the culture sector has been decimated, but I think some things need to go. Sometimes, the evidence for culture is just the people making it." The artist added that he would welcome criticism, or a substitute only get to express other voices.



De man moet op de schop, leest Matthijs van Nieuwkerk bij Grayson Perry

'Je hoeft je ogen maar open te doen en je ziet dat de man iets afschuwelijks doet', schrijft Grayson Perry in een boek dat leest als een flamboyant pamflet.

Matthijs van Nieuwkerk 2 oktober 2020, 13:02



APOLLO

Grayson Perry wins €150,000 Erasmus Prize

Plus-Marianne Corneille appointed president and CEO of Terra Foundation / François Jassin (1962-2001) and presence of his painting updated in acknowledge ownership by his posthumous donor

Art news daily

Britse beeldend kunstenaar Grayson Perry krijgt Erasmusprijs 2020

Erasmusprijs 2020 Perry (1960), die zichzelf een 'pottenbakkende travestiet' noemt, is een van de bekendste hedendaagse Britse kunstenaars en laat zien dat kunst geen elitaire aangelegenheid hoeft te zijn.

Arjen Ripstein | 28 februari 2020 | Leestijd 2 min



Waaron we de opkomst van vrouwenhatende mannen serieuzer moeten nemen

Mannen De opvattingen van ongewenst vrijgezelle mannen over vrouwen hebben een kwalijke uitwerking op het algemeen bewustzijn. Daarom wordt het hoog tijd voor een nieuw soort mannelijkheid, een die minder schade aanricht.



Grayson Perry @Alan_Meades - Feb 27
Thank you to everyone for your warm words about me being awarded the Erasmus prize. I am extremely touched.



Erasmus Correspondence



On 12 October 2020, His Majesty the King was presented with 'De correspondentie van Desiderius Erasmus' by publisher Ms Exler-Donker at Paleis Noordeinde. The correspondence of Erasmus, translated fully into Dutch, consists of twenty volumes and a register with a total of 3,141 letters.

Down through the centuries, the ideas of Erasmus have exerted a considerable influence on belief, education, politics, literature, culture and science. His correspondence, now translated, offers insight not only into his body of thought but also into Erasmus the man and the Renaissance period. Erasmus corresponded

between 1484 and 1536 (the year of his death) with scholars and influential figures all over Europe. The translation reveals not only his ideas but also his travel experiences, his personal observations and his friendships, including that with the British humanist, philosopher and statesman Thomas More. Moreover, the letters shed light on major historical events of his time. The translation has been made by a team of academic translators, supported by a supervisory committee. The King presented the books to the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation, of which he is Patron.



From left to right: Mrs Exler-Donker, Mrs de Ranitz (chair Praemium Erasmianum Foundation), His Majesty the King

Research Prizes 2020

Since 1988, the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation awards annual Research Prizes. Five prizes of € 3,000 each are awarded to young academic researchers in the humanities and social sciences, who have written a PhD dissertation of outstanding quality at a university in the Netherlands. Important criteria for the award are the broad, case transcending treatment of the subject and the wider relevance of the book for other disciplines. This year's selection committee was formed by Dr.mr. Maarten Asscher, Dr. Barnita Bagchi, Dr. Shanti van Dam, Dr.mr. Max Drenth, Prof.dr. Bas ter Haar Romeny, Prof. dr. Rick Lawson, Prof.dr. Jos de Mul en Prof. dr. Marlou Schrover.

The award ceremony took place digitally on Tuesday 23 June 2020 on the website of the Foundation.

The winning dissertations of 2020:

Matteo Bonelli

A Union of Values. Safeguarding Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the EU Member States

Janna Coomans

In Pursuit of a Healthy City: sanitation and common good in the Late Medieval Low Countries.

Milton Fernando Gonzalez Rodriguez

Histrionic Indigeneity: ethnotypes in Latin American cinema

Julian Schaap

Elvis Has Finally Left the Building? Boundary work, whiteness and the reception of rock music in comparative perspective

Thijs Willems

'Monsters' and 'Mess' on the Railways. Coping with Complexity in Infrastructure Breakdowns.



ONLINE AWARD CEREMONY

DISSERTATION PRIZES 2020



From left to right: Shanti van Dam, Julian Schaap, Thijs Willems, Matteo Bonelli, Janna Coomans, Milton Fernando Gonzales Rodrigues

Matteo Bonelli

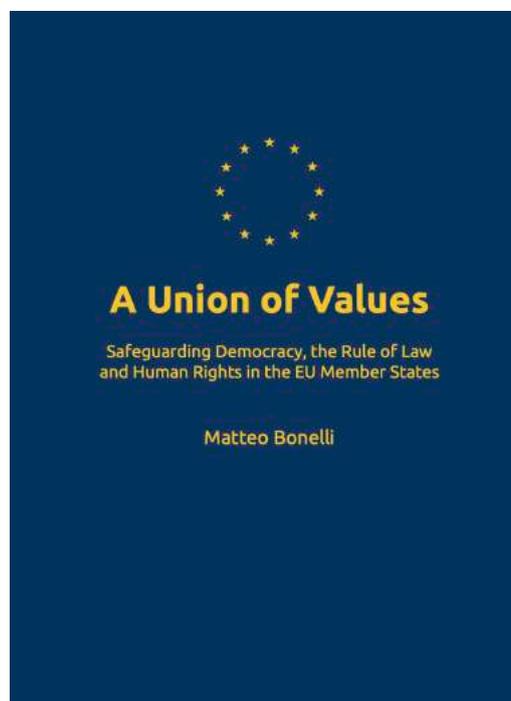
A Union of Values. Safeguarding Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights in the EU Member States

Supervisors Prof. dr. Monica Claes &
Prof. dr. Bruno de Witte
Nomination Maastricht University,
Faculty of Law

Report by the selection committee

In recent years much attention has been paid in the EU to the authoritarian trends in Member States. The consensus on issues such as the rule of law and independence of the judiciary seems to be disappearing and this is affecting the very foundation of European cooperation. This research was conducted during this turbulent period: it started in 2014 and was defended in June 2019. The thesis offers a thorough analysis of a very relevant topic.

At the heart of this research is a clear legal analysis of the standards at stake and the procedural possibilities available to the EU to protect those standards. But the author also takes the political reality and the historical and cultural context in the countries involved into account. It is admirable how he kept his course while political and legal developments occurred in quick succession during the period in which he conducted his research. In the view of the jury, the book is well written, the conclusions nuanced and the policy recommendations realistic.



Janna Coomans

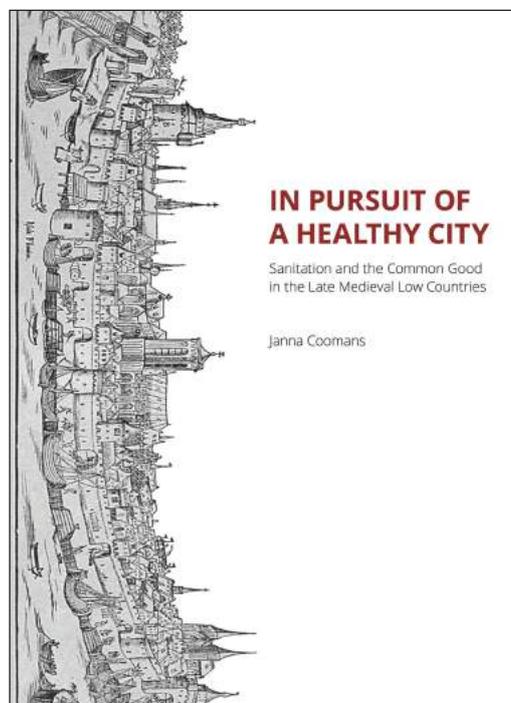
In Pursuit of a Healthy City: sanitation and common good in the Late Medieval Low Countries

Supervisor Prof. dr. Guy Geltner
Nomination University of Amsterdam,
Faculty of Humanities

Report by the selection committee

The author analyzes all aspects of public health in a comparison between Ghent, Leiden and Deventer in the late medieval Netherlands on a spatial, governance and network level. Extensive archival research has been carried out for this comparison, which is a considerable task for this period. The author convincingly shows that many anti-plague measures previously seen as ad hoc and ill-advised were actually based on pre-existing theories, and many were in place before the plague reached the cities. The jury compliments the strong and clear theoretical framework. In addition, it found the writing style to be very pleasant, which contributes to the high readability for non-specialists. Despite the many different types of sources used, the book is still comprehensible.

The dissertation subject is very important at present and proves the relevance of historical research to contemporary issues. This type of research can serve as a source for dealing with epidemics today, and it can also be taken into account in the design of cities in combination with health-care concerns. A beautiful book in the opinion of the jury.



Milton Fernando Gonzalez Rodriguez

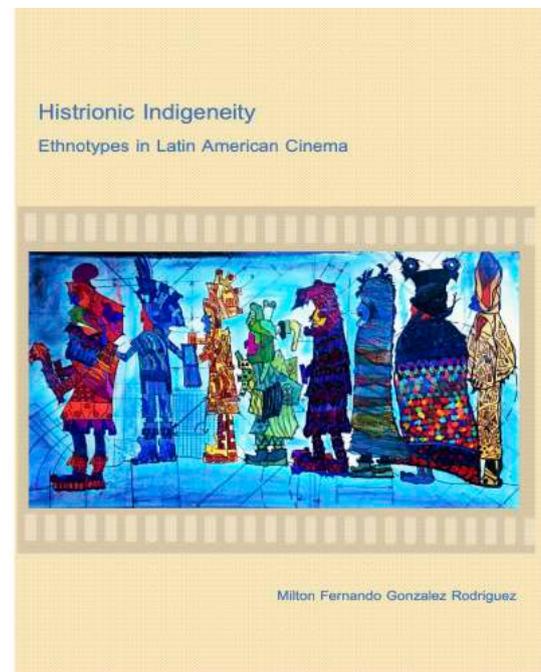
Histrionic Indigeneity: ethnotypes in Latin American cinema

Supervisor Prof. dr. Michiel Baud
Co-supervisor Dr. Arij Ouweneel
Nomination University of Amsterdam,
Faculty of Humanities

Report by the selection committee

The focus of this thesis is the effect of ethnic characterization in the theatrical (meta) reality of Latin American film. How does this typecasting take place? What does it consist of and where does it come from, and in what forms has it been seen in Latin American cinema over the past twenty years? The author analyzed an impressive 65 films with the help of various disciplines such as imagology, anthropology, linguistics, history and film studies.

In the opinion of the jury, the author handles this large corpus elegantly and with much empirical insight. This thesis offers a rich set of insights into how filmic and linguistic techniques are used in constructing 'indigenous' archetypes. Matters of gender, region, class and language are skilfully embedded into the work. Alfonso Cuarón's brilliant film *Roma* from 2018 forms the culmination of the research as a liminal film that offers new perspectives on 'histrionic indigeness'. An impressive book with important international scope, according to the jury.



Julian Schaap

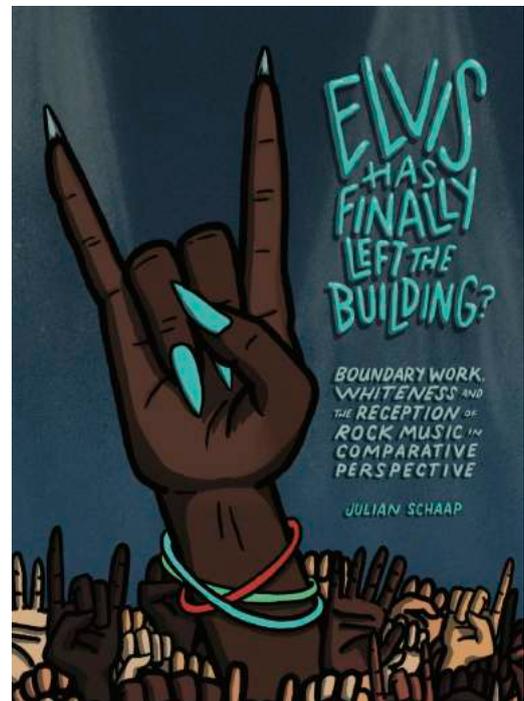
Elvis Has Finally Left the Building? Boundary work, whiteness and the reception of rock music in comparative perspective

Supervisor Prof. dr. Koen van Eijck
Co-supervisor Dr. Pauwke Berkers
Nomination Erasmus University Rotterdam, Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication

Report by the selection committee

This dissertation researches the extent to which and way in which ethno-racial divisions are constructed, maintained and/or dismantled in the reception of music. The thesis examines two central puzzles. First, our taste in music is not genetically determined, so what causes correlation between music and ethno-racial traits? Second, how is it that while some musical styles are correlated with ethno-racialities (rap, klezmer), others, like rock and country, are not generally understood as such?

Focusing on rock music as a genre, the thesis shows that invisible markers of whiteness dominate the consumption of rock music. Both declarative and non-declarative preferences of Americans and Dutch consumers of rock music are analyzed. The author uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods skilfully and by doing so, he creates a unique data set which took the dissertation beyond narrow case studies. In addition, the jury praised the fact that the thesis is beautifully embedded in scholarly methods and literature, whilst still being an exciting and readable book for non-specialists. A remarkable and original dissertation with great international social relevance.



Thijs Willems

'Monsters' and 'Mess' on the Railways. Coping with Complexity in Infrastructure Breakdowns.

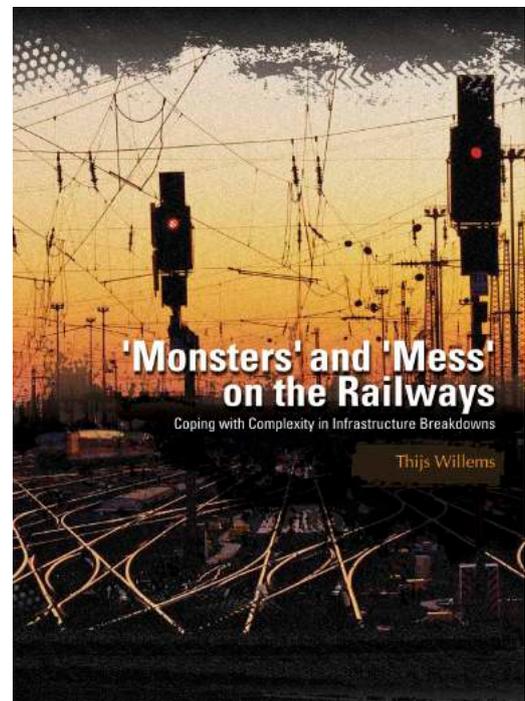
Supervisors Prof. dr. Marcel Veenswijk &
Prof. dr. ing. Alfons van Marrewijk

Nomination VU University Amsterdam,
Faculty of Social Sciences

Report by the selection committee

Dutch railway infrastructure is regularly disrupted by incidents, outages and breakdowns. Employees work every day to keep the infrastructure operational. They are constantly responding to these disruptions using technology. Some disruptions are major, but a pattern of barely perceptible disruptions unfolds daily. In the thesis, infrastructure is not seen as a system that may or may not work, but as a continuous and simultaneous process of breakdown and repair.

The author has conducted ethnographic research into this process and, from his spectator position, he discovers how embodied the knowledge is with which employees keep the process moving. At the same time, the author considers his own role and the significance of ethnography for understanding the working process. This book is of great importance not only to our understanding of industrial safety and dealing with infrastructure, but also to social reactions to accidents and disasters. It inspires the reader to think about responsibility, guilt, prevention and how society deals with these setbacks with more nuance. This is an extremely relevant and topical dissertation. The jury also highly praises its originality.



Origin and Aim of the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation

On 23 June 1958, His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands founded the Praemium Erasmianum. The aim of the organisation, as described in article 2 of its constitution, is to enhance the position of the humanities, the social sciences and the arts and to promote appreciation of these fields within society, within the context of the cultural traditions of Europe in general and the ideas of Erasmus in particular. The emphasis is on tolerance, cultural multiformity and undogmatic critical thinking.

The Erasmus Prize consists of €150,000 and adornments. The Board is composed of leading members of the Dutch cultural, scholarly and business communities.



The adornments are designed by Bruno Ninaber van Eyben. The adornments consist of a harmonica folded ribbon with a titanium plate at both ends. In closed form it is a booklet; when opened a ribbon with a text in Erasmus' handwriting. This text, taken from a letter to Jean de Carondelet (Basel 5 January 1523), is characteristic of Erasmus' thinking:

Diverse are the gifts of men of genius and many are the different kinds of ages. Let each one reveal the scope of his competence and let no one be envious of another who in keeping with his own ability and style tries to make a useful contribution to the education of all.

Erasmus to Jean de Carondelet Bazel 5 january 1523

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