

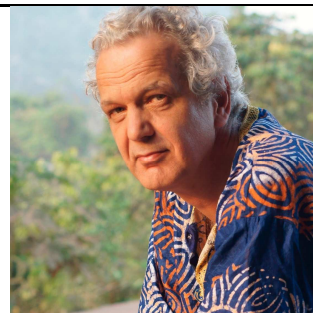
# CURRICULUM VITAE PETER ABSPOEL

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## Personalialia

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## Education

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2015 PhD in philosophy, Radboud University, Nijmegen  
1988 MSc, socio-cultural sciences (cultural anthropology and ethnomusicology), Utrecht University  
1981 Composition, Rotterdams Conservatorium (first year completed)  
1980 Atheneum-B, Coornhert Scholengemeenschap, Haarlem

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## Work experience

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- 2016-pres. INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER, WRITER, PUBLICIST, EDITOR  
Authoring books and articles (see list of publications below); working as editor and advisor on several projects, e.g. for Amsterdam University Press, editing scientific texts and giving a writing tutorial for PhD students at Wageningen University & Research. Since July 2021 I've been collaboration for a research project with the Catholic University of Leuven (Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies).
- 2016-2020 BOARD MEMBER (TREASURER) AND MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WRITERS' ORGANISATION PEN NETHERLANDS, MEMBER OF PEN INTERNATIONAL  
Activities (i.a.): financial management, helping to organise actions for persecuted writers, representation in PEN International, participation in international congresses and conferences, writing policy documents, opinion pieces, etc.
- 2011-2015 PHD STUDENT, PHILOSOPHY, RADBOUD UNIVERSITEIT, NIJMEGEN  
Doing literature research and writing thesis, PhD degree granted October 2015. Supervisor: dr. Paul van Tongeren. Members of the manuscript committee: dr. Guido Vanheeswijck, dr. Jean-Pierre Wils, dr. Jacques De Visscher.
- 2000-2010 STAFF MEMBER COMMUNICATION, REFUGEE ORGANISATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS, UTRECHT/AMSTERDAM  
Activities (i.a.): conceiving, writing and editing various publications and statements, including newsletter, press releases, letters and policy recommendations to ministers and politicians, opinion pieces, etc., being media spokesperson, organising expert-meetings, press conferences and actions; participating in international conferences and debates, directing various communication projects; maintaining contacts with ministries, government agencies, politicians, a variety of NGO's, (international) human rights and children's rights organisations, medical professionals, lawyers, journalists, the Council of Churches, and, of course, refugees and their associations. Independently, I managed to put some issues on the political agenda. A self-conducted inventorisation of the problems concerning the medical care for asylum seekers led to a system overhaul. As a lobbyist, I wrote the design for an amnesty arrangement for rejected asylum seekers who had been staying for a long time in the Netherlands; it would be incorporated into the programme of a political party and came into effect in 2007.
- 1998-2000 COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT, STAAL COMMUNICATIE, ZEIST  
Tasks (i.a.): writing press releases and corporate brochures for several large companies and a government agency.

- 1997-1998 COORDINATOR 'JUBILEE 2000', SECRETARIAT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE), UTRECHT  
Tasks (i.a.): formulating vision for the project, writing policy documents and discussion papers, maintaining contact with relevant organisations; organising meetings, conceiving and editing various publications.
- 1992-2000 FREE-LANCE COLLABORATOR ON EXHIBITION PROJECTS  
It concerns the exhibitions *Kings of Africa* (MECC Maastricht, 1992); *Wijzen, heksen, heiligen: oud in Afrika* (Museum voor Volkenkunde Rotterdam, 1993); *Africa Meets Africa* (Museum voor Volkenkunde Rotterdam/Kunsthall, 1996). Tasks included writing exhibition texts and contributions for catalogues, and editing catalogues.
- 1990-2000 TRANSLATOR  
Translated prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction, from and into English and from French. Initially, I concentrated on African literature.
- 1989-2000 EDITOR  
Worked for In de Knipscheer Publishers and other publishing houses. Tasks: editing original and translated literary works, coaching authors, evaluating manuscripts.

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### Other activities

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- 2016-pres. Member of Thijmgenootschap (Dutch association of experts on science and religion). The philosophical department of the association devoted its spring meeting in 2018 to a discussion about my article 'Tradition as a key to the Christian Faith'.
- 2012 Organiser national debate on asylum policy, about the effects of the amnesty arrangement of 2007.
- 2011-2016 Initiator and advisor, on behalf of the churches of Wageningen, of projects offering support to refugees.
- 2005-2008 Co-founder, board member, spokesperson and publicity manager for foundation Ons Pardon ('Our Amnesty'), in Wageningen, an ambitious and successful initiative that supported about 100 rejected asylum seekers in the years leading up to the amnesty arrangement (the project received the highest award in 2013 from the municipality of Wageningen).
- 1991-pres. Several functions (as volunteer) in Roman Catholic parishes; from 2010 to 2019 chair of church council at Wageningen.
- 1991 Research in Nigeria on behalf of translation project.
- 1990-pres. Writing articles and lecturing on a variety of subjects (anthropological, literary, political).
- 1988 Anthropological research on New Age movement, resulting in publication.
- 1986-1987 Anthropological research in Cameroon (first of many visits to this country).
- 1983-1984 Ethnomusicological research in Mali, resulting in publication.
- 1981-pres. Writing (mostly vocal) music; a professional ensemble is planning to perform some of my work in 2022.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

**Chansons pour les masques dogon.** Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht and Musée Nationale, Bamako, 1988.

**Teruglopend water** (poems). Uitgeverij In de Knipscheer, 1991.

**Orpheus op herhaling** (narrative poem). Kleinood & Grootzeer, Bergen OZ, 2000.

**Zingeving in het Westen: Traditie, strijdersethos en christendom** (Sources of Meaning in the West: Tradition, the Warrior Ethos and Christianity), PhD Thesis, 2015; a commercial edition appeared with Vantilt Publishers, Nijmegen, in May 2016.

**Stiefkind van de rede: Essays over de voorwaarden van menselijkheid** (Reason's stepchild: Essays on the conditions of being human). Uitgeverij Damon, Eindhoven, 2021.

**Wat zijn we aan het doen? Hoe we onze menselijkheid opofferen aan economie en technologie** (What are we doing? How we sacrifice our humanity to the economy and technology). Uitgeverij Wereldbibliotheek, Amsterdam, 2021.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS \*

'De habitus die schittert door afwezigheid' (The habitus conspicuous by its absence; on the New Age movement). In: **Religieuze bewegingen in Nederland**, 18, VU Uitgeverij, 1989.

Poems in literary magazine **De Tweede Ronde**. (Several issues, 1990.)

'Elechi Amadi'. In literary magazine **Raster** 66, De Bezige Bij, 1994.

'"De Afrikaanse kunst werd nooit overtroffen"' ('African art was never surpassed'). With Erna Beumers. In **Art & Value**, najaar 1995.

Afterword to **De slaaf**, see translations (Amadi), 1995.

'Het veelzeggende zwijgen van de huid: Litteraire toelichting en huidbeschildering in Afrika' (The eloquent silence of the skin: scarification and skin painting in Africa). With Erna Beumers. In **Omtrent de huid** (dr. Th. Van Joost, ed.). Uitgeverij Boom, Amsterdam, 1996.

'De uitdaging van het andere' (The challenge of the other). With Erna Beumers. In: **Africa meets Africa**, Museum voor Volkenkunde Rotterdam, 1996. Republished as 'The African Collection of the Wereldmuseum Rotterdam', in **African Art**, XXXIII, 1, Spring 2000. University of California, Los Angeles, 2000.

'Wil de echte vluchteling opstaan? De heiligverklaring van de IND belemmert een eerlijke asiëdiscussie' (Will the real refugee rise? How the claim to infallibility of the Immigration Service thwarts an honest debate on asylum policy). In **Migranten Informatief**, 146, March 2003.

'De muziek van de Dogon' (The music of the Dogon). In R.M.A. Bedaux en J.D. van der Waals (red.), **Dogon: Mythe en werkelijkheid in Mali**, Uitgeverij Snoeck, Gent, 2003 (also in French).

'De projectie van traditieloosheid' (Tradition wished away). In **Volkskunde**, 110<sup>de</sup> jaargang, nr. 3-4. Centrum voor Studie en Documentatie v.z.w., Antwerpen, 2009.

'In Praise of Foolish Conviviality: Some thoughts on the unthinkable connection between tradition, spontaneity and ethics'. In **International Journal of Philosophy and Theology**, Volume 78, Issue 3, Routledge, Abingdon, 2017 (DOI: 10.1080/21692327.2017.1302813).

'Flirten met een wegverklaard geloof' (Flirting with a discounted faith; extensive review of *Het knagende weten*, Floris Cohen). In **Radix**, volume 43, number 3, ForumC, Amersfoort, 2017.

'Tradition as a key to the Christian faith'. In **International Journal of Philosophy and Theology**, Volume 79, Issue 5, Routledge, Abingdon, 2018 (DOI:10.1080/21692327.2017.1389654).

'Traditie in het Westen' (Tradition in the West). In **De Filosoof**, number 77, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Utrecht University, Utrecht, 2017.

'Draadloos labyrint' (Labyrinth without a thread; extensive review of *Ganesha in Silicon Valley: De macht van de mythe op het wereldtoneel*, Petran Kockelkoren). In **Radix**, volume 45, number 2, ForumC, Amersfoort, 2019.

'Echoes from the Great Divide: On the Faltering Philosophical Dialogue Between Africa and the West'. In **Comparative Philosophy**, Volume 12, No. 1, San Jose State University, USA, 2021, (DOI: 10.31979/2151-6014(2021).120105; <https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/comparativephilosophy/vol12/iss1/5/>).

\* Not mentioned: opinion pieces published in newspapers.

TRANSLATED INTO DUTCH

- Achebe, Ch., **Hoe meisjes oorlog voeren** (*Girls at War*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1991.
- Achebe, poems. In **De Tweede Ronde** (literary magazine), Bert Bakker, autumn 1990. (I was guest editor of this number devoted to Nigerian literature).
- Amadi, E., 'De dodenkuil' (from *Sunset in Biafra*). In **De Tweede Ronde**, Bert Bakker, Amsterdam, autumn 1990.
- Amadi, chapters from the novels *The concubine* and *Estrangement*. In **Raster 66**, De Bezige Bij, Amsterdam, 1994.
- Amadi, **De slaaf** (*The Slave*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1995.
- Anyidoho, K., poems. **Poetry International**, Rotterdam, 1991.
- Belton, N., **De vrouw die luisterde** (*The Good Listener: Helen Bamber, A Life Against Cruelty*). Contact, Amsterdam 1999.
- Bissoondath, N., **Yasmins werelden** (*The Worlds Within Her*), In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 2001.
- Dewdney, Chr., poems. **Poetry International**, Rotterdam, 1996.
- Hamilton-Paterson, J., **Spelen met Water** (*Playing With Water*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1993.
- Hove, Ch., **Beenderen** (*Bones*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1990.
- Hove, Ch., **Berichten uit Harare** (columns from *de Volkskrant*, 1991-1992). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1993.
- Hove, Ch., poems. **Poetry International**, Rotterdam, 1991.
- Hove, Ch., **Schaduwen** (*Shadows*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1994.
- Mello, A. de, **Bronnen van leven** (*Wellsprings*), Lannoo, Tielt, 1993.
- Nouwen, H., **De taal van het hart** (*The Way of the Heart*). Lannoo, Tielt, 1995.
- Okara, G., poems. In **De Tweede Ronde**, Bert Bakker, autumn 1990.
- Ousmane, S., **Niiwam** (with N. van Maaren). Ambo-Novib, Amsterdam, 1991.
- Sepamla, S, poems. **Poetry International**, Rotterdam, 1996.
- Spufford, M., **Kostbaarder dan het leven** (*Celebration*). Lannoo, Tielt, 1994.
- Tansi, S.L., **De ogen van de vulkaan** (*Les yeux du volcan*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1994.
- Tutuola, A., **Mijn leven in het land der geesten** (*My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1999.

EDITED (A SELECTION FROM 45 TITLES)

- Beumers, Erna., Hans-Joachim Koloss, **Kings of Africa: Art and Authority in Central Africa**. Foundation Kings of Africa, 1992. (English and Dutch edition.)
- Beumers, Erna, **Africa meets Africa: The African collection of the Museum of Ethnology Rotterdam**. Museum voor Volkenkunde Rotterdam, 1996. (English and Dutch edition.)
- Cándani, **Oude onbekenden** (novel). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 2001.
- Derks, Lucas, **De postume colleges van Herman Blaas** (novel). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam 1992
- Lieman, Baukje, **Exit: Het vluchtverhaal van een Bosnische moslim**. In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1993.
- Selman, Ibrahim, **En de zee spleet in tweeën** (novel). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 2000.
- Roos, Betty., **Bonsai-kinderen** (novel). In de Knipscheer, Amsterdam, 1995.
- Werk, Jan Kees van de, **De karavaan van de verbeelding**. KIT Publishers, Amsterdam, 2000.