

BOEKMAN DISSERTATION PRIZE
for art, culture and policy
The Boekman Foundation / Dutch Research Council (NWO)

In his doctoral thesis, Emanuel Boekman was the first to address the relationship between art and government on a scientific level. He received his doctorate from the University of Amsterdam on 6 June 1939. With the Boekman Dissertation Prize for art, culture and policy, the Boekman Foundation and NWO's Social Sciences and Humanities Division aim to bring important results of new research on art and culture in governance, policy and practice to the attention of a wider audience.

In recent years, Dutch universities have started to pay more attention to research on art and cultural policy and on the social context in which art and culture develop. PhD students often conduct original research relevant to this field. Experience shows that many dissertations receive little or no attention outside their own academic circle or in a broader social context. For this reason, the Boekman Foundation and NWO Social Sciences and Humanities established the Boekman Dissertation Prize for art, culture and policy. The Dissertation Prize is in line with the objectives of both organisations. It is a means of disseminating interesting results of recent research to a wide circle of potentially interested people, as well as of stimulating further research.

The Boekman Foundation not only gathers and disseminates knowledge and information about art and culture in policy and practice, but also stimulates research and opinion-forming on the production, distribution and consumption of art and culture and on national and international art and culture policy.

The task of the Dutch Research Council (NWO) is to promote the quality and innovation of scientific research. The NWO is strongly committed to improving the career prospects of scientific talent. It also stimulates socially focused research questions through cooperation with departments and social and cultural institutions. Using the knowledge gained from research is also part of NWO's task.

RULES FOR THE 5th BOEKMAN DISSERTATION PRIZE for art, culture and policy

Article 1: Establishment of the prize

Since 2009, the Boekman Dissertation Prize for art, culture and policy has been awarded once every three years to the author of a dissertation that focuses on art and culture in their social environment. The prize is awarded for an original and independently conducted (partial) study in the form of a dissertation written at a Dutch university.

Article 2: Scope of the prize

The subject of the dissertation must relate to art and culture in the social contexts in which they have originated, developed and remained. These might include the social, economic, legal, administrative, business, organisational or policy contexts. The dissertation can cover both the present and the past.

Article 3: Conditions of participation

Dissertations eligible for the 5th edition of the Boekman Dissertation Prize are those which have led to a PhD between 1 January 2018 and 1 September 2021.

Submissions should consist of the summary which forms part of the dissertation, the full text of the dissertation (in PDF format), a description of the research in the form of a cover letter from the candidate, and an endorsement (maximum 500 words) from the supervisor(s). In the cover letter (maximum 1,000 words) the candidate should explain the contents of his/her dissertation and its relevance to cultural professional and policy practice. The candidate should submit the relevant documents to the Boekman Foundation. These must be received by the Boekman Foundation no later than 16.00 on 15 September 2021. The Boekman Foundation will assess whether the applications are admissible within the scope of the prize. Entrants will be informed of this by the Boekman Foundation. Entrants will be deemed to be aware of and in agreement with these rules.

Article 4: Judging

The jury for the Boekman Dissertation Prize will be compiled by the Boekman Foundation in consultation with NWO and will consist of five persons, including one chair. The jury will be officially supported by the Boekman Foundation. The deliberations of the jury are confidential.

The selection procedure will be as follows:

First round

All jury members will receive the applications submitted.

The jury will choose a maximum of ten candidates from the total list of submissions on the basis of the criteria listed below.

The jury will make their selection based on a combined assessment of the relevance of the dissertation topic, scientific quality and the accompanying cover letter. The selection of a maximum of ten submissions will be made public after 1 November 2021.

With a view to the second round, the candidates will be invited to briefly present their research in a film lasting no more than five minutes. Candidates are expected to cooperate and to send the relevant film to the Boekman Foundation before 15 December 2021. These films will be included in the assessment in the second round, but also posted online to further publicise the dissertation prize.

Second round

The ten nominated dissertations will then be assessed by the members of the jury, who will choose three dissertations to be presented in the third and decisive round before 15 February 2022, based on the criteria listed below.

Third round

The three nominated dissertations will be discussed in a joint meeting. On the basis of this, the jury will select the winner of the Boekman Dissertation Prize. The jury will endeavour to reach a unanimous decision, but if no agreement is reached the jury will decide by majority vote. The assessment of the three dissertations will be substantiated in a written report. There is no right of appeal against the decision of the jury.

The following criteria will be used in the selection:

First round

In the first round, the jury will assess the submissions on the basis of the following criteria:

- social and cultural relevance of the dissertation to the cultural professional and policy practice and/or the public debate on this;
- scientific quality on the basis of the summary and the supervisor's endorsement;
- accompanying cover letter.

Second round

The jury will assess the ten nominated dissertations according to the following three criteria:

- social and cultural relevance of the dissertation to the cultural professional and policy practice and/or the public debate on this;
- scientific quality on the basis of the summary and the supervisor's endorsement;
- accompanying cover letter.

In both rounds, the criteria will be operationalised as follows.

The following sub-criteria will be important in determining the *social and cultural relevance*:

- possibilities for knowledge transfer of the results of research within the cultural professional and policy practice;
- topicality of the theme with regard to the public debate on culture and society;
- prospects for applying the research results in policy, governance or systems.
Both the national and international contexts are important in this regard.

The *scientific quality* will be assessed on the following sub-criteria:

- scientific importance of the dissertation;
- originality/innovative nature of the objectives;
- clarity of the problem statement;
- methodology (appropriateness of the approach/methodology in the light of the objectives; originality/innovative nature of the approach/methodology used);
- contribution to development of the field.

Social and cultural relevance and scientific quality will be given equal weighting. The *description of the research* will be assessed on the basis of the aforementioned cover letter and the submitted film. Attention will be paid to argumentation and accessibility.

Third round

In these stages of the selection, the three remaining dissertations will be discussed in a meeting of the jury and checked once more against the above criteria. The jury will present a binding single nomination, substantiated in a report, to the Boekman Foundation.

The members of the jury will discuss and compare the content of the dissertations on the basis of the three criteria mentioned above. If a member of the jury is involved in one of the selected dissertations as a supervisor or co-supervisor, or if there is any other involvement, this constitutes a conflict of interest and he/she must not judge the dissertation concerned. Members of the jury are asked to report any involvement to the Boekman Foundation. When the final assessment of the nominees is carried out in a meeting, he/she shall not take part in discussion of the relevant dissertation and shall leave the meeting room.

The jury may seek the advice of external experts for its assessment if it so wishes.

Article 5: The award ceremony and the prize

The date envisaged for awarding the prize will be in April 2022 at a public meeting. At the award ceremony, the chair of the jury will read out a summary of the jury's report.

The prize consists of a sum of €10,000. This sum should be spent on research-related activities. After spending the prize money, the winner must account for this to the Secretary. In the year following the award ceremony, the journal *Boekman* will also devote an issue to the theme of the dissertation. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the result.

Article 6: Other

The Boekman Foundation reserves the right to amend the rules. All issues not covered by these rules will be decided by the Boekman Foundation.