Curriculum Vitae Willem B. Drees

Version December 2025

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Willem Bernard (Wim) Drees

Born: 20 April 1954, 's-Gravenhage

Married; three children; 6 grandchildren

Lives in Leiden, the Netherlands

E-mail wb@drees.nl

Website www.drees.nl

CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Secretary for the humanities and social sciences of the Royal Holland Society for the Sciences and Humanities [Koninklijke Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen, founded in 1752, KHMW]; www.khmw.nl.

Member of the advisory board of 'Islam and the Sciences', a Cambridge University Press Elements Series.

Member of the Joint Publication Board of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science.*

Member of the Council of CASIRAS, the Center for Advanced Study in Science And Religion (Chicago)

Member of the board for the Foundation for the Willem Dreeslecture, an annual political lecture.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Tilburg University, the Netherlands (2014-2020), Professor of Philosophy of the Humanities.

Dean, Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences, 2015-2018.

Leiden University (2001-2014), Professor of philosophy of religion, ethics and encyclopedia of theology.

Dean, Faculty of theology/ religious studies (2005-2008).

Vice-dean, Faculty of Humanities (2009-2013).

ALLEA – ALL European Academies (2001, Feb.-Aug.), managing director.

Twente University, the Netherlands (1995-2001), Nicolette Bruining Chair for Philosophy of Nature and of Technology from a Liberal Protestant .Perspective, an extraordinary professorship.

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1989-2001).

Study secretary, Bezinningscentrum, a center for interdisciplinary studies.

Groningen University (1985-1989), PhD research, funded by the National Science Foundation.

Groningen, Amsterdam, Amersfoort and Utrecht (1977-1985), high school teacher mathematics and physics.

Utrecht University (1973-1977), student assistant for courses in mathematics and theoretical physics, research on teacher training, and the development of study skills.

EDUCATION

1994, 24 nov. Doctorate in philosophy, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, NL.
Thesis: *Taking Science Seriously: A Naturalist View of Religion*, supervisor P.P. Kirschenmann. Published as *Religion , Science and Naturalism* (Cambridge University Press, 1996).

1989, 29 June Doctorate in Religious Studies/ Theology, Groningen University, NL., *cum laude*.
Thesis: *Beyond the Big Bang: Quantum Cosmologies and God.* Published by Open Court (1990).
Supervisors R. Hensen (theology) and H. van Woerden (astrophysics).

1980-1985 Theology/ religious studies, University of Amsterdam and Groningen University, NL.
Philosophy of religion, with minors ethics, history of Christianity, dogmatics. *Cum laude.*
Main supervisor H.G. Hubbeling.

1971-1977 Theoretical physics, with mathematics and astrophysics, Utrecht University.
Concluding thesis on the detectability of Higgs Bosons, supervised by M. Veltman.
Professional license for teaching physics and mathematics.
Student member of the faculty council.
One year study of andragogiek [study of social work] (1973-1974).

1966-1971 Daltonlyceum 's-Gravenhage, HBS-B.

PREVIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES

2014 - 2020 FWO, the Flemish Science Foundation: member, later chair for the panel for religious studies.
2018 Chair, research assessment for Religious Studies and Islamic & Arabic Studies, Utrecht Univ.
2013 NWO, the Netherlands Science Foundation, program committee Religion in modern society.
NWO, panel for open competition for the humanities.
2008-2018 *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, Editor in chief.
2006 QANU, member of committee for assessment of programs in philosophy, UvA, VU, RUG.
2005-2010 ECOS, evaluation national research schools; chair of the subcommittee for the humanities.
2003-2014 Legatum Stolpianum, established in 1754 (scholarly prizes); secretary.
2003-2009 NOSTER, national research school Theology and Religious Studies, Board member.
2003-2016 Religion, Theologie und Naturwissenschaft, Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht; Series editor
2002-2008 ESSSAT, the European Society for the Study of Science And Theology, President.
2002-2009 IRAS, the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, Vice-President.
2002-2021 Studies in Philosophical Theology, Peeters, Leuven, BE; Series editor
2001-2011 Het Haagsch Genootschap; Chair of the board.

RECOGNITION (PRIZES, VISITING FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS ETC.)

Science, Religion, the Humanities and Hope: Essays in Honour of Willem B. Drees, edited by Anne Runehov and Michael Fuller. Springer, 2024.

Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg (2021, Oct-Nov.), visiting professorship.

CTI Distinguished Fellow in the Humanities, Princeton, 2019.

Member of the Koninklijke Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen (KHMW), the Royal Holland Society for Sciences and Humanities, 2018-present.

External advisor for the network Muslims and Science, Istanbul, 2015.

Japan, co-chair for a conference on humanities & natural science, 2015.

Cracow, Poland, visiting fellow of the Copernicus Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, 2013.

Yogyakarta, visiting fellow, Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies, Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, 2011.

Grant NWO, the Netherlands Science Foundation, with M. Düwell (P.I.), J. de Mul, and others, 'What can the humanities contribute to our practical self-understanding?', 2009.

Houston Witherspoon Fellow, Center of Theological Inquiry; visiting fellow Princeton University, 2008-2009.

Grant NWO program The Future of the Religious Past, 2003.

Grant NWO program Cultural renewal and the foundations of the humanities, 2003.

International Society for Science and Religion, founding member, 2002 - present.

John Templeton Foundation, three prizes for articles and one course award, 1994-1996.

Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton & Dept. of Philosophy, Princeton; Fulbright Scholarship, 1993.

Legatum Stolpianum, prize awarded once every five years by a jury of Leiden University, 1994.

Prins Bernhard Fonds Prize [Keetje Hodshon Prize], Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen, 1992.

Chicago Center for Religion and Science, LSTC, Chicago; Fulbright scholarship, 1988.

ESSSAT, the European Society for the Study of Science And Theology; member of the initial council, editor of its newsletters, 1990-1998.

Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley; Fulbright scholarship, 1987.

Invited lectures include lectures at Beijing Normal University; in Canada and the United States, including the Dickinson Distinguished Lectureship at Dartmouth, NH; and in Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Istanbul; the Idreos Lectures in Oxford, the Samuel Ferguson Lectures in Manchester, a lecture at the Gifford Bequest Conference in Aberdeen, and other lectures in the UK, the Netherlands, and elsewhere on the European continent.

Evaluations for PhD theses in Leuven, BE, the University of East Finland, and various Dutch universities.

Evaluations for tenure for various institutions in the USA, Canada, and Europe.

Evaluations for scholarly publishers, journals, book series, grant programs, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, NIAS.

A FEW KEY PUBLICATIONS

Waarom Deo et Patriae? *Geloof én wetenschap in de eerste jaren van de Hollandsche Maatschappij.* Haarlemse Voordracht. Haarlem: KHMW, 2024. (Online www.khmw.nl)

Denken over geloven: Van moderne zekerheid tot agnostische terughoudendheid (Amsterdam U.P., 2023), on changes in philosophy of religion at Leiden University since 1876). Online OA via www.aup.org

What Are the Humanities For? (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

Religion and Science in Context: A Guide to the Debates (Routledge, 2010).

The Study of Religion and the Training of Muslim Clergy in Europe: Academic and Religious Freedom in the 21st Century, edited with P.S. van Koningsveld. (Leiden University Press, 2008).

Creation: From Nothing until Now (Routledge, 2002).

Religion, Science and Naturalism (Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Beyond the Big Bang: Quantum Cosmologies and God (Open Court, 1990).