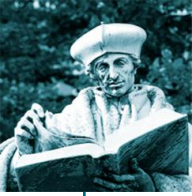


# *Innovations in adaptive governance: the importance of time*

**Dr. Jasper Eshuis**  
**Dr. Arwin van Buuren**

**Public Administration**



# *Structure of presentation*

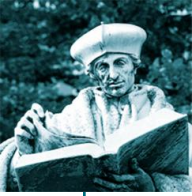
- Research questions
- Theory on time
- Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusion and discussion



# *Research questions*

- How do actors perceive time?
- How does the factor of time influence innovation processes in water governance?
- How can time be managed?





# Methodology

- Double case study
  - Waalblok (water basin underneath glasshouse)
  - The New Water (area development with floating residencies)
- Methods: 15 interviews and document analysis





# Two approaches of time

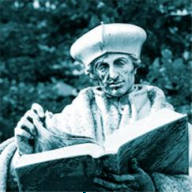
- Clocktime: unambiguous, linear, mechanical
- Social time: perceived time
  - Nature of time            sequential, cyclical, capricious
  - Rhythm                    short – long cycles
  - Pace (tempo)            passing quickly - slowly
  - Quantity                 scarce – plentiful
  - Time horizon            short-term – long-term





# *Some theory: management of time*

- Classic top-down decision-making: make a plan with activities and deadlines and stick to it
- Adaptive governance processes: *synchronization* of multiple rhythms, tempos, time horizons
  - Character of time: monochronic or synchronic; phases or cycles; flexible evolution of processes
  - Rhythm of time: enlarge or decrease length of cycles
  - Tempo: accelerate or postpone, synchronize with tempo of other processes
  - Timing: adjust moments of acting in accordance with context



# Waalblok case

- Three parties want restructuring of glasshouses and waterstorage
- Perceptions of time:
  - Horticulturalists: growth cycles and short term
  - Waterboard: phases of policy program, electoral cycle, medium term
  - Municipality: deadlines of subsidy and perceptions of voters
  - Experts: medium and long term
- Management of time
  - Horticulturalist set hard deadline
  - Phasing of implementation of 4B concept



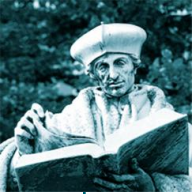


# Waalblok case (II)

## Aspects of time management

- Varying perceptions of time influenced relationships, process and outcomes
- Realization innovation 4B concept depends on adaptive management of time
  - dividing 4Bs; sequencing process
  - horticulturalists given more time regarding discharge wastewater
- Growth cycles and electoral cycle played important role
  - tempo increased to synchronise with these cycles





# Conclusions (I)

Time sensitive governance:

- Takes different perceptions of time into account, connects these and aims at common orientation regarding time
- Uses factor time to come to agreements and implementation



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