

***Interactive comment on ““Doing” cultural geography/“being” a cultural geographer – reflections by an “accidental geographer” on practising cultural geography in the Netherlands” by B. van Hoven***

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General comments:

Bettina van Hoven wrote a personal essay, not an conventional article about an empirical or theoretical research project. So the 3 standard questions above (scientific significance, scientific quality, presentation quality) don't really apply to this text. But is an interesting reflection on her personal development as a geographer and a honest and well-balanced report on the characteristics and qualities of her sphere of activity

C25

(i.c. the cultural geography department in Groningen), well embedded in the context of Dutch human geography. I think her text is an valuable contribution to this special issue.

Specific comments:

page 165: why B. van Hoven and not Bettina van Hoven? (old-fashioned)

page 167, note 1: In Utrecht was an optional course on feminist geography between 1987 and 1999; total number of participants in this course: 241. The zenith of Dutch feminist geography was perhaps the publication of the special issue "Geografische vrouwenstudies" in the journal *Geografisch Tijdschrift* 1991, number 1.

page 168, line 20-23, about Dutch geography in the 1930s: please, make a difference between on the one hand the activities of Amsterdam geographers (called sociogeographers) in "large-scale planning projects in the struggle against water and development of new land" in the Zuiderzee-/IJsselmeer-region, and on the other hand applied regional geography in the "old land" by Utrecht geographers (in regions and cities with much socio-economic problems and poverty due to the world-crisis); in the 1930s the relationship between the old human geography and the new "planology" (urban and regional planning) came into existence.

Please mention somewhere: two pre-war geographical institutes existed in the Netherlands (universities in Amsterdam and Utrecht); after the war 3 new institutes were added: Groningen 1950, Nijmegen 1958 and the Free University in Amsterdam 1961. See for details: Ben de Pater (2001) *Geography and geographers in the Netherlands since the 1870s: serving the colonialism, education, and the welfare state*, in: Gary S. Dunbar, ed. *Geography: discipline, profession and subject since 1870*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, 153-190.

page 180, line 10: please mention the chapter with Louse Meijering in *Companion to Social Geography* as a forthcoming publication in the list of references.

C26

page 183, line 22: technical error: "125 jaar geografie" is "125 jaar geografie".

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C27