

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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Ben de Pater’s contributions to knowledge of the history and background of Dutch geography is extensive. His publications range from discussions of geography and geographers in the Netherlands since the late 19th century to explorations of large-scale ‘geographic projects’ such as the Zuiderzee to commentaries about people, processes and places that mattered to developments in Dutch geography today. Therefore, I value his critical look at the details and nuances (and at times lack thereof) within my depiction, in broader lines, of such developments. De Pater’s comments add to my attempt

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to emphasise some of the highlights in Dutch geography, particularly in Dutch feminist geography in the late 1980s/ early 1990s and the contribution of Dutch geographers in the early 20th century. On both accounts, he notes, I neglected the role of the geographical institute in Utrecht. I do not mean to imply, however, that it is simply a matter of a missing detail. In fact, de Pater points at a division between the work and focus of geographers in Amsterdam (on the 'new' land) and that of geographers in Utrecht (on the 'old' land) which somewhat mirrors a differentiation between ways in which people residing on the 'old' and 'new' land have identified with each other and the land itself. It is likely a differentiation that affected local/ regional cultures, and organizations and institutions as well and, to come full circle, the newer developments in Dutch geographies by setting both policy and research agendas. Last but not least, I would briefly like to reply to de Pater's question regarding the use of my initial rather than full name since, he notes, this appears rather old-fashioned. This is an interesting and, in the context of my article, relevant question. However, it is perhaps one to the editorial board of Social Geography as the paper was submitted with my full name. There would have been little point for me disguising my name and gender, considering I revealed my personal and academic development in detail in this article, and implying the relevance of my gender within it.

Interactive comment on Soc. Geogr. Discuss., 6, 165, 2010.

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