

School/Department:	Erasmus School of Philosophy
Project Title:	Retrieving the Principle of Sufficient Reason: Scepticism and Imagination in the Anthropocene
Abstract:	<p>The Anthropocene marks a seismic shift in the relation between thinking and being. Although it is centered around human agency, the ubiquity of crisis signals a mismatch between modern reason and our historical sense of the present. As our values materialize in planetary exhaustion, how do we reorient ourselves in a 'world' that exceeds us on all sides? In public discourse, responses to crisis generally come in two forms: we either revert to known grounds (the reductionism of 'We are our brain' or 'It's the economy, stupid!') or we give up on grounding altogether (climate skepticism, 'pragmatism instead of ideology'). In both cases, the answer consolidates an anti-intellectual climate in which any ground must suffice. We are subject to a moral and irrational binarism: order or chaos. Critically engaging the Anthropocene's threat to obliterate what we consider 'reasonable', this project revisits the first principle of modern rational thought, the Principle of Sufficient Reason (PSR). Criticized as the self-sufficient theoretical expression of the demand for the identity of reason and ground, today the PSR reacquires a more practical function of 'response-ability': since, from the brain to the planet, we inhabit grounds that are not 'for us', we must learn from, and attend to, the consistency of habits and habitats. From this perspective, my project seeks a new historical interpretation and systematic evaluation of the PSR. It identifies a series of transformations that the PSR is forced to undergo in response to crises in our ways of relating to nature, each other and ourselves. It shows that, from Leibniz to Schelling to contemporary empiricism, there is an a-modern undercurrent in the use of the PSR, in which it is not just a rationalist demand for necessitating grounds but first of all an empiricist obligation to render coherent what is irreducibly contingent.</p>
Requirements of candidate:	<p>Background: Continental Philosophy, History of Western Philosophy Ecology, Science and Technology Studies, Post-Colonialism, Feminism, Metaphysics</p> <p>Master's degree: Yes</p> <p>EUR requirement:</p>

	<p>IELTS: 7.5 (min. 6.0 for all subs.)</p> <p>Or, TOEFL: 100 (min. 20 for all subs.)</p>
Supervisor information:	<p>Chair: Prof. Dr. Hub Zwart Email address: zwart@esphil.eur.nl</p> <p>Dr. Sjoerd van Tuinen Email address: vantuinen@esphil.eur.nl Personal website: https://www.eur.nl/en/people/s-van-tuinen Recent publication list 2014-now</p> <p>(Co-)Edited Books</p> <p>Kleinherenbrink, Arjen & van Tuinen, Sjoerd (forthcoming 2020, eds.). The Politics of Debt. New York: Zero Books.</p> <p>Schuilenburg, Marc & Tuinen, Sjoerd van (2019, eds.). Leven in het antropoceen. Een handleiding, Amsterdam: Boom.</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van & Brouwer, Joke (2019, eds.). To Mind is to Care, Rotterdam: V2 / NAI Publishers.</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van (2018, ed.). The Polemics of Ressentiment. Variations on Nietzsche, London/New York: Bloomsbury.</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van & Zepke, Stephen (2017, eds.). Art History after Deleuze and Guattari. Leuven: Leuven University Press.</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van (2017, ed.). Speculative Art Histories. Analysis at the Limits. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.</p> <p>Brouwer, Joke & Spuybroek, Lars & van Tuinen, Sjoerd (2016, eds.). The War of Appearances: Transparency, Radiance, Opacity, Rotterdam: V2 / NAI Publishers.</p> <p>Meiborg, Ceciel & Tuinen, Sjoerd van (2016, eds.). Deleuze and the Passions. New York: Punctum Books.</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van & Brouwer, Joke (2014, eds.). Giving and Taking. Antidotes to a Culture of Greed. Rotterdam: V2 / NAI Publishers.</p> <p>Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals</p> <p>Tuinen, Sjoerd van (2017), "Die beste aller möglichen Welten?", in: Pro-Fil, special issue 2017, pp. 3-17, https://doi.org/10.5817/pf17-3-1646.</p>

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