"I don't think that's romantic at all!"

*Imagining the Dutch rural in an age of globalization*

Bosma, A.

**Publication date**
2023

**Citation for published version (APA):**

**General rights**
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

**Disclaimer/Complaints regulations**
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
“I Don’t Think That’s Romantic At All!”
Imagining the Dutch Rural in an Age of Globalization

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. P.P.C.C. Verbeek
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde commissie,
in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel
op woensdag 13 December 2023, te 10:00 uur

door Anke Bosma
geboren te Hilversum
Promotiecommissie

Promotor(es): prof. dr. E. Peeren Universiteit van Amsterdam
dr. H.H. Stuit Universiteit van Amsterdam

Overige leden: prof. dr. M. Kavka Universiteit van Amsterdam
prof. dr. G.E.H.I. Franssen Universiteit van Amsterdam
prof. dr. L.M.E.A. Cornips Maastricht University
dr. M.G. Paijmans Universiteit van Amsterdam
dr. ir. C.P.G. Driessen Wageningen University & Research

Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
The research for/publication of this doctoral thesis received financial assistance from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (grant agreement No. 772436). This thesis is part of the project “Imagining the Rural in a Globalizing World” (RURALIMAGINATIONS, 2018–2023).
Parts of Chapter 4 are based on:

Parts of the Introduction, and Chapters 2 and 3 are based on:

Valdés Olmos and Bosma were both equally responsible for data collected during fieldwork, literature review, archival research, and case study selection. Valdés Olmos and Bosma both contributed equally to the Introduction and Conclusion. Bosma wrote the section “Idle Subjects in Van den Bosch’s Colonies” and Valdés Olmos wrote the section “The Continued Legacy of Undesirable Populations.”

Parts of the Introduction, and Chapters 2 and 4, are based on:

Peeren and Bosma were both equally responsible for data collection, literature review, and case study selection and both authors were equally responsible for the Introduction and Conclusion. The sections “Farming, authenticity and nationalism” and “Protesting farmers as populist heroes” were primarily written by Peeren. The section “The righteous anger of the farmer as a ‘real’ man” was primarily written by Bosma.

Parts of the Introduction and Chapter 2 are based on:

Peeren and Bosma were both equally responsible for data collection, literature review, and case study selection. Both authors were equally responsible for the introduction (first two paragraphs) and conclusion (final paragraph). Bosma wrote the historical context (final paragraph pages 247-51) and Peeren wrote the analysis of the advertisement and the section on tourist shops (pages 252-58).

A version of the second half of Chapter 4 is forthcoming here:
Bosma, Anke. “Imagining Dutch slavery legacies through the rural-urban divide.” *Slavery in the Cultural Imagination: The Neerlandophone Space, 17-21st Century*, edited by Saskia Pieterse and Marrigje Paijmans, Amsterdam University Press. (Forthcoming)
Voor Heleen

Zonder jouw aanstekelijke ambitie was ik hier nooit aan begonnen
Bedankt voor al je “toejuichen vanaf de zijlijn” zolang het kon
Alles wat ik doe, doe ik ook een beetje voor jou
# Table of Contents

**Introduction**  “I Don’t Think That’s Romantic At All!”
Imagining the Dutch Rural in an Age of Globalization…………………1-30

**Chapter 1**  Sticking Out or Fitting In:
Performing Rural Belonging in *Jij bent van mij* and *Weg van jou*……….31-61

**Chapter 2**  “Real” Farmers and “Natural” Pioneers:
Authentic Rurality in *Onze boerderij* and *Plattelandspioniers*............62-94

**Chapter 3**  Dead Ends and Deadbeats:
The Rural Dull in *De heilige Rita* and *New Kids Turbo*…………………95-127

**Chapter 4**  The Idyll as Cover:
Organized Crime in the Rural in *Undercover* and *Grenslanders*…….128-154

**Conclusion**  Overcoming Rural Romanticization
and the Randstad/Randland Dichotomy……………………………………155-161

**Bibliography**  ………………………………………………………………………….162-175

**Summary**  ………………………………………………………………………………176-180

**Samenvatting**  ………………………………………………………………………….181-185

**Acknowledgements – Dankwoord**  ………………………………………………186-188