



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Madness and the city

Interactions between the mad, their families and urban society in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, 1600-1795

aan de Kerk, M.A.

Publication date

2019

Document Version

Other version

License

Other

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

aan de Kerk, M. A. (2019). *Madness and the city: Interactions between the mad, their families and urban society in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, 1600-1795*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

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, P.O. Box 19185, 1000 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When I started as a PhD candidate a little under four and a half years ago, the finished thesis seemed an endlessly far-away dot on the horizon. But, driven by my ever growing love of digging through the archives and a determination to uncover information about this fascinating, promising and relevant research topic, the years seem to have flown by and that dot on the horizon has finally been reached. Getting to this point was in no way a walk in the park. During this bumpy ride, filled with ups and downs, many people were there to help guide me in my journey and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to those who – in various ways – helped me during this process.

First and foremost, I would like to like to thank both my supervisors, Geert Janssen and Gemma Blok, who have supported, guided and assisted me from the very beginning. Throughout the whole journey, I have been so happy and grateful for your guidance, patience, insights, thought-provoking questions and collaboration. Geert – your attitude of keeping calm and taking academia with a ‘pinch of salt’ has helped me tremendously, just like the occasional check-ins you made at my office and the fact that your door was always open if I was struggling with things and needed a second opinion. Your meticulous reading of my chapters and sharp comments and questions have also greatly improved this manuscript and I thank you so much for that. Gemma – if it were not for you, I probably would not have started this journey into academia: I am so grateful that you stimulated me to write a proposal. Your enthusiasm for this research and great knowledge of the topic have resulted in many brainstorm sessions that inspired me to bring this thesis to the next level and also to keep my spirits up when I felt lost at times. Not only do I value your professional advice and our collaborations in teaching, organizing a symposium and visiting conferences, but I also value your personal counsel: you helped me navigate my way and we celebrated many of the steps (we both have) taken during this period. Therefore Geert and Gemma, to both of you I owe many thanks for all the support and enthusiasm. You have stimulated and helped me to bring this journey to a good end.

The care for the mad was concentrated in a larger community. Likewise, the community of PhD candidates and colleagues from the early modern history department, the Urban History and Medicine and Society research groups, and also people from the research department of the Faculty of Humanities (the grant team in particular) have all shared this journey. In a way, they have also helped and cared

for me. I would like to take this moment to thank you all for the support and welcome distractions during conversations in the hallway, the lunches in the cafeteria or in the courtyard, over the many cups of coffee shared and the numerous *vrijdagmiddagborrels*: the journey has become much more enjoyable thanks to sharing these experiences with you all. A special mention goes to my roommates, with whom I have shared an office from the beginning of my PhD adventure and who welcomed me in their midst in Room 4.60, not to mention the later additions in DO.09 who supported me in surviving this project. Sanne, Rianne, Karlijn, Marianne, Anna and Konstanze: you have made this experience one that I will look back on with much pleasure. All the dinners, parties, beers, laughs and talks including both academic and (absolutely) non-academic topics have made my time at the office such a pleasure. To both Sanne and Rianne – those last months of the PhD were made so much more enjoyable (as far as this can be said of course) by you both. Sanne, we shared so many moments together – laughter and sometimes tears – and I have such a deep appreciation for your loving and down-to-earth spirit. You showed and inspired me to see how the struggles of the final stages needed to be tackled by motoring through and putting things in perspective: mostly with a good glass of wine or a cold beer. I am very happy you agreed to be by my side at my defence as paranymph. Rianne, the fact that you came to live with me for six months at the end of this journey and treated me to many delicious home-cooked meals and lent a sympathetic ear when I was struggling to see the finish line has been so incredibly appreciated. It has kept me motivated. All in all, friendships for life have been made during this journey and I really cherish the experience.

The role that friends and family played in the care for the mad and also during this exercise cannot be underestimated. Arguably, this is because having a personal life during this process keeps one from going mad. So, to all my friends who distracted me during this period in my life and to whom I could complain at times about the hardship: thank you. Friends that I would especially like to name here are Eva (who agreed to be my paranymph), Niek and Ruth who have all stood by me during the good and the bad times. I also want to express my gratitude to my family members: Daan, Emmelieke, my aunts and extended family who listened to my stories about the early modern mad and gave me a place to either display my enthusiasm or moan about the pressure I put on myself during the journey, mostly over (Sunday) dinners. I would also like to thank Merijn, who I met during the last year of this journey and who, via his support, patience and much needed distractions, has made this final stage an experience that was so much more pleasurable. Last but not least, I want to thank my parents: my dad who transferred his love for research

to both my brother and me, but sadly did not live long enough to see us both get our PhDs. And to my mother, who stood by me and cheered me on from the side-lines during my whole academic career: I do not think that I can thank you enough for your support. Even though you could not assist me anymore with the editing of my work (this thesis being in English), you have helped me tremendously with brainstorming sessions if I needed someone to bounce my ideas off and you encouraged me at times when I needed that extra push in the back. It has made me so happy that you agreed to do the artwork for the cover of this thesis and so, mom, I dedicate this book to you.

Amsterdam, March 2019