

Program book: Being Reformed in the 21st Century

IRTI INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
6 – 10th of July 2026, Amsterdam



Content

- ❖ Word of welcome
- ❖ Program and course requirements
- ❖ Lunch, dinner and refreshments
- ❖ Directions and transportation
- ❖ Contact info
- ❖ Things to do @ Amsterdam
- ❖ List of Participants
- ❖ About IRTI



PThU

Protestantse Theologische **Universiteit**



DEBRECEN REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY



❖ Word of Welcome

Welcome to the fourth IRTI summer school in Amsterdam, organized together with you all from the participating institutions! Rooted in a long tradition of summer schools in the Netherlands initiated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, since 2016 we succeeded in extending the summer school to participation from Hungary, Romania, the Netherlands and some other countries.

With various backgrounds in theological and cultural traditions we share our love for theology as rooted in the Christian faith. I trust that this summer school will be a great opportunity for all of us to share our thoughts, contexts and experiences in an enriching and encouraging way.

I wish you all a safe travel to Amsterdam and a pleasant and enriching stay with us!

Prof. dr. Maarten Wisse
*Director International Reformed
Theological Institute*



Program and Course Requirements

Theme

The twenty-first century brings all sorts of challenges, some of which we have seen before, others of which are new. In nearly every corner of the world, there has been a tidal wave, of sorts, of change which has upended the previous consensus. Politics, the economy, the digital world, and the environment are particular topics which impact all of us to varying degrees. The 2026 International Summer School of Theology will explore what the Reformed tradition, in particular, has to offer the world in seeking to navigate these topics. We will address the historical contexts, and how the Reformed tradition has dealt with similar questions in the past; our contemporary challenge; and how we might look to the future and the faith we pass down. The Reformed tradition has, since its beginning, been in dialogue with (and has sometimes challenged) the social order, and the summer school will continue in this vein. We will explore questions of politics—for example: democracy, autocracy, sovereignty of nation-states and the fusion of religion and politics; questions of economy—for example: capitalism, socialism, economic inequality especially the concentration of wealth; questions regarding the digital world—for example: the rise of artificial intelligence, the continuing evolution of social media, deepfakes, and more; questions regarding the environment—for example: the climate crisis, common good and individual good, and so much more for all of these. Scholars and students from around the world will gather to offer unique perspectives on each of these so that students will be able to gain a more global perspective on these challenges.

Program

About fourteen sessions of 90 minutes will be held from Monday evening July 6 till Friday July 10, extended with one optional meeting on Sunday July 11 (visit of a church service). During these days full time presence is required. This includes one excursion, sharing in meals (lunch and dinners) and some additional activities.

There will be a photographer present to take pictures for IRTI. If you wish to not be photographed, please tell Joost, Maarten or Brecht.

Organization

The IRTI International Summer School is organized by the International Reformed Theological Institute (IRTI, www.irti.nl), in cooperation with the following partner institutions:

- New Brunswick Theological Seminary, USA (NBTS)
- Sárospatak Reformed Theological College, Hungary (SRTA)
- Debrecen Reformed Theological University (DRTU)
- Reformed Theological Faculty of J. Selye University, Komárno, Slovakia (RTFS)
- Protestant Theological Institute, Cluj Napoca/ Kolozsvár, Romania (PTI)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands (VU)
- Protestant Theological University Amsterdam, The Netherlands (PThU)

The school will be held in the facilities of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and students from abroad will stay in residence nearby. All lectures will be in English.



Program Schedule

Monday July 6

16:00 - 16:30 Registration

16:30 - 17:30 Lecture 1: Prof. dr. Maarten Wisse, PThU, director of IRTL, Welcome and introduction to the theme, *Being Reformed in the 21st century*

17:30 - 18:45 Dinner at VU Restaurant

18:45 - 20:30 Lecture 2: Prof. dr. Dion Forster, VU (NL), *Reformed Theology and Public Theology in Late Secular Democracies*

20:30 - 20:45 Devotion by student/staff NBTS

Tuesday July 7

09:00 - 10:45 Lecture 3: Prof. dr. Pieter Vos, PThU (NL), *Reformed Perspectives on Just Peace and Just War*



11:00 - 12:45 Lecture 4: Prof. dr. Mirjam van Veen, VU (NL), *Reformation of the Refugees*

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch at VU Restaurant

14:00 - 15:45 Lecture 5: Dr. Nathan Jérémie-Brink, NBTS (USA), *Reformed Theologies of Dominion and Slavery: Sources from the Dutch Atlantic World and Public History in New Jersey*



16:00 - 17:00 Lecture 6: Dr. Ciska Stark, PThU (NL), *Green Sermons as a Protestant Challenge*



17:15 - 17:30 Devotion by students/staff SRTA

17:30 - 18:30 Dinner at VU Restaurant

Wednesday July 8

09:00 - 10:45 Lecture 7: Prof. dr. Wim Moehn, PThU (NL), *Calvin on Economic Inequality*



11:00 - 12:00 Lecture 8: Dr. Joost Hengstmengel, VU (NL), *The Reformed Doctrine of Usury and Its Contemporary Relevance*

12:00 - 12:15 Devotion by students/staff DRTU

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch at VU Restaurant

14:00 - 17:00 Excursion to Utrecht

17:00 - 19:30 Dinner in Utrecht

Thursday July 9

09:00 - 10:45 Lecture 9: Dr. Gyula Homoki, SRTA (HU), *Behind the Scenes: Principalities and Powers, and the Quest for Christian Witness*



11:00 - 12:45 Lecture 10: Prof. dr. Gijsbert van den Brink, VU (NL), *Why Constitutional Democracy is So Important*

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch at VU Restaurant

14:00 - 15:45 Lecture 11: Dr. Micah L. McCreary, NBTS (USA), *The Syntheses of Liberation, Reformed, and Process Theologies and their effectiveness in Combating American Ideology, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Existential Crisis Between "America First" and Democratic Equality*



16:00 - 17:45 Lecture 12: Dr. Szilveszter Füsti-Molnár, SRTA (HU),
When Politics Becomes Sacred

17:45 - 18:00 Devotion

18:00 - 20:00 Dinner at VU Restaurant

Friday July 10

10:00 - 11:45 Lecture 13: Dr. Suzan Sierksma, PThU (NL), *Prefigurative
Politics and Reformed Political Theology in Conversation*

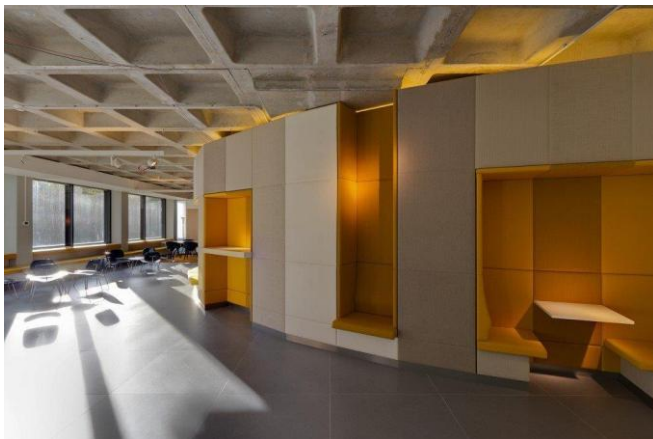


12:00 - 13:45 Lecture 14: Dr. James Brumm, NBTS (USA), *[Title to be
determined]*

13:45 - 14:30 Lunch at VU Restaurant

14:30 - 14:45 Devotion students/staff PThU

14:45 Farewell



Sunday July 11 (optional for those who stay)

10:30 Morning service at English Reformed Church Amsterdam
(www.ercadam.nl).
Address: Begijnhof 48, Amsterdam



❖ Lunch, Dinner and Refreshments

The summer school programme has arranged lunch and dinner from Monday night onwards.

Both lunch and dinner will normally be served at the VU university restaurant. Upon arrival you'll receive vouchers, which can be used to purchase your own lunch and dinner. The university restaurant offers a wide variety of lunch and dinner options, including drinks and salads. The vouchers' value is €10,00 (Lunch) or €12,50 (dinner). We kindly request to pay any additional costs in the VU restaurant yourself (cash – no banknotes of more than € 100 – or debit card – no credit card). **We kindly ask you to return vouchers you did not need or are left over.** Note that on Wednesday evening, dinner will be served in a restaurant in Utrecht.

Refreshments including coffee and tea will be served during breaks next to the conference rooms.



❖ Directions and Public Transportation

Upon arrival all international participants will receive a public transportation card of the GVB which can be used to travel in Amsterdam by metro, tram and bus (trains are excluded!). These tickets can be used from Monday to Friday onwards. Make sure to always check in and out when entering or leaving a tram, metro or bus.

Venue

The Summer School opening and lectures will be held at the Free University (Vrije Universiteit) in Amsterdam. The VU University can be found at De Boelelaan 1105 in Amsterdam.

All lectures will take place in HG 15A37 (15th floor of the VU building) and the *Kerkzaal* (16th floor of the VU building).



To get from any airport (Eindhoven, Rotterdam or Schiphol) to the VU, we recommend taking a train to 'Amsterdam Zuid'. From this station, it is a 10-minute walk to the VU main building. Exit the station heading south and walk through Amsterdam's financial district to the VU. Follow the 'Claude Debussy' street (without cars) and take a left at the main road. The big building on your right is the VU University.

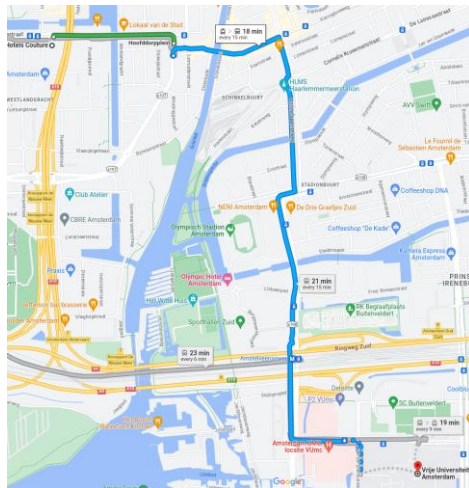
XO Hotels Couture
Delflandlaan 15
1062 EA, Amsterdam

Public Transportation

You can easily reach the PThU by public transport. Tram and metro stops are in close proximity to the hotel.

The closest station is: Amsterdam, Delflandlaan. From here, you can take tramline 2 in the direction of Centraal Station and get off at Hoofddorpplein. From there, you can take busline 62 in the direction of Amstelstation and get off at Amsterdam, VUmc.

In total, the trip should take around 20-25 minutes



Tram line 2 to the centre of Amsterdam:

Tram 2 goes directly to the city center to the Museum Square, Leidse Square the Dam and all the way to Amsterdam Central station

The Social Hub (Amsterdam West)
Jan van Galenstraat 335
1061 AZ Amsterdam

Public Transportation

You can easily reach the PThU by public transport. Tram and metro stops are in close proximity to the hotel.

Metro line 50 direction to Gein (walking distance from your hotel 2 min). Get off at station Amsterdam Zuid. From this station, it is a 10-minute walk to the VU main building

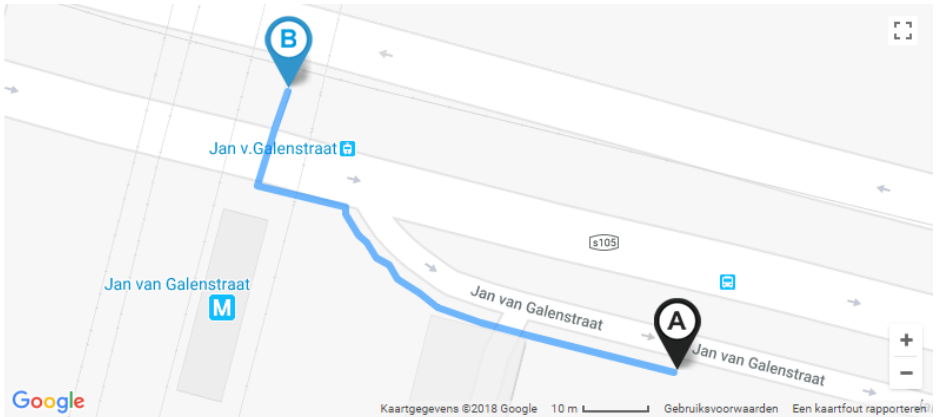


A: The Social Hub

B: Metro station Jan van Galenstraat

Tram line 13 to the centre of Amsterdam

You can easily reach the heart of Amsterdam by taking tramline 13 (walking distance from your hotel 1 min, the opposite side of Hospital OLVG West).



A: The Student Hotel

B: Tram stop Jan van Galenstraat

❖ Contact Info

The program director of the IRTI summer school in Amsterdam is dr. Joost Hengstmengel. For all inquiries concerning the program, the course and the lectures please contact him via e-mail: j.w.hengstmengel@vu.nl or in urgent circumstances, telephone: . Practical questions can be directed to Brecht Crabbe, secretary of IRTI. Telephone number: and e-mail: bcrabbe@pthu.nl,



❖ Things to do @ Amsterdam

Christian Café “Dwaze Zaken” (“Foolish Matters”)

It is a Café in the heart of Amsterdam, near the Central Station. They serve great food and tasty drinks for a reasonable price. The artistic and Christian character of this café offers a unique experience for anyone who wants to explore!

Address: Prins Hendrikkade 50

Opening hours:

Sun - Sat 09:00 - 22:00

Nescio Cafe & Auditorium Bar @ the heart of Amsterdam

Fantastic local pub with exceptional atmosphere. Good people good times. The owners and bar staff are an absolute delight. And don't forget to sample the bitterballen, however watch your tongue!

Mauritskade 57

Opening hours:

Sun – Sat 09:00 - 23:00

FEBO Amsterdam (Typical Dutch Fast Food)

Dutch fast food chain Febo sells fast food in a unique way: it keeps its products warm in small compartments of a vending machine. All you do is put coins into the automat and open the door to your tasty snack.

Febo is cheap and good! The costs are between €1,20 and €3,00.

Discover Amsterdam and take a look @ The Nine Streets



While many visitors head straight to the busy chain-store mecca of Kalverstraat, those in the know get their retail therapy at one of the city's more locally flavoured shopping meccas. The most well-known of these is De Negen Straatjes or 'The Nine Streets', a quaint warren of cobbled streets that connect the main canals between Leidsegracht and Raadhuisstraat. Here you'll find over 200 retailers, including a fine selection of independent boutiques, vintage shops and specialty stores selling everything from designer dresses to handmade cosmetics. You'll find a similar shopping experience with less crowds on the hip Haarlemmerdijk, the Utrechtsestraat, or the delightful Czaar Peterstraat in Amsterdam East.

Alternative tip: If you're looking for souvenirs to take home, skip the tourist traps and shop for authentic Dutch design and quality Amsterdam brands at the Local Goods Market in De Hallen or the I Amsterdam Store in Central Station.

For more information about Amsterdam www.iamsterdam.com

Enjoy your stay in our beautiful city!

About IRTI

Mission and vision

IRTI is a global network of scholars working in all theological disciplines with an affinity for Reformed theology. IRTI's mission is to enhance 'Living Reformed Theology', or the study of Reformed theology and the historical roots of its tradition, always with an eye towards new contexts, with questions of today's world in mind, and in an ecumenical spirit.

Realising our mission

IRTI's mission is realized in particular by organizing biennial international conferences, biennial summer schools for (PhD-)students, and publishing the peer-reviewed *Journal of Reformed Theology* (JRT) and the series *Studies in Reformed Theology* (SRT).

IRTI's activities are characterized by

1. profound theological reflection, rooted in the study of Scripture and tradition, drawing on the treasures of Reformed sources, past and present
2. a contextual approach, including interdisciplinary methods and the study of 'lived religion'
3. a focus on globally challenging themes

IRTI is a joint initiative of the School of Religion and Theology (FRT) of the Vrije Universiteit and the Protestant Theological University (PThU), in Amsterdam.