



# Aron van de Pol

PhD Candidate, Digital Humanities & Korean Studies

Leiden University – Leiden Centre for Digital Humanities (LCDH) / Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)

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Nationality: Dutch Personal: Born 30 Apr 1998

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## Research Profile

I use computer vision, text mining, and large language models to study colonial Korean print culture at scale. My dissertation focuses on two connected domains: typographic variation and printshop practice, and the visual culture of mass advertising in colonial-era newspapers. With Steven Denney, I also study how Korean national identity is constructed and transmitted through state-authored history textbooks using computational text analysis.

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## Academic Appointments

<b>PhD Candidate, Digital Humanities &amp; Korean Studies</b> Leiden University (LCDH / LIAS), Netherlands	<i>2022–Present</i>
<b>Researcher, Leiden HumAN (Humanities &amp; AI Network)</b> Leiden University	<i>Current</i>
<b>Managing Editor, Korean Histories</b> Editorial and production coordination	<i>Current</i>
<b>Board Member (Research Planning), Korean Association for Digital Humanities (KADH)</b> National scholarly association for digital humanities in Korea	<i>Current</i>
<b>Junior Research Fellow</b> Kyujangak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University	<i>Jun 2024–Mar 2025</i>

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## Education

<b>PhD Trajectory, Digital Humanities &amp; Korean Studies</b> Leiden University	<i>2022–Present</i>
<b>M.A. East Asian Studies (Korea specialization)</b> Leiden University	<i>2021–2022</i>

## Exchange Student

Feb 2020–Aug 2020

Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea

Korean language training to Sogang Level 4 (TOPIK 4 equivalent); coursework in Digital Humanities and Korean historical research

## B.A. Korean Studies

2019–2021

Leiden University

Final grade: 8.2

Thesis: *Quantifying the left; examining the development of socialist thought inside the Korean colonial magazine Kaebryök*

## Analytical Chemistry (unfinished)

2016–2018

Hogeschool Arnhem Nijmegen, Netherlands

## Chemical Analyst Vocational Track

2014–2016

Rijn IJssel, Netherlands

## Grants & Fellowships

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### Overseas Korean Studies Grant (KS-2026-R-094)

2026

Academy of Korean Studies (with Steven Denney, PI)

### Junior Research Fellowship

2024–2025

Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University

## Publications

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### Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL

(under review)

Conference paper.

Aron van de Pol, Jelena Prokic, Angus Mol

### Constructing the Nation: Identity and Historical Narratives in South Korean History Textbooks

(in prep.)

Journal article.

Steven Denney, Aron van de Pol

### Buying Type, Selling Print: Type Foundries, Print Shops, and the Commercial World of Colonial Korean Printing, 1911–1945

(under review)

Journal article.

Aron van de Pol

## Selected Talks

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- **Pixels of Persuasion** – 18th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies, Seoul National University (Nov 2025)
- **Pixels of Persuasion** – Analog Memory, Digital Vision?, Palacký University Olomouc (Oct 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – CLIN 35, Leiden University (Sep 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – ADHO 2025, NOVA University Lisbon (Jul 2025)
- **Pixels of Persuasion** – AKSE 2025, University of Edinburgh (Jun 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – DHBenelux 2025, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Jun 2025)

- **Viewing Patterns of Printers, Digitally, Distantly** – 17th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies, Seoul National University (Nov 2024)
- **The DH Cookbook in Korean Studies** – Korea Studies Forum Leiden 2024, Leiden University (Oct 2024)
- **Exploring the Influence of Colonial Korean Print Shops with Computer Vision** – KUGS 11th Annual Korea University Graduate Student Conference, Korea University (Apr 2024)
- **DH Benelux 2021: Charting Kaebyök's Semantics** – Leiden (Jun 2021)

## *Teaching & Guest Lectures*

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<b>Teaching Assistant, <i>Hacking the Humanities: An Introduction to Python and Text Mining</i></b>	<i>2021–2022</i>
Leiden University; beginner Python pathway for humanities students	
<b>Teaching Assistant, <i>NLP for the Humanities</i></b>	<i>2023</i>
Leiden University	
<b>Teaching Assistant, <i>Special Topics in Digital Humanities</i></b>	<i>2022 (two editions), 2025</i>
Leiden University	
<b>Guest Lecturer, <i>AI &amp; the Humanities</i></b>	<i>2023, 2025, 2026</i>
Leiden University	
<b>Guest Lecturer, Department of Korean History, Seoul National University</b>	<i>Feb 2025, Nov 2025</i>
Lecture topics: <i>The Visual Turn</i> (Feb 2025) and <i>Ways of Seeing</i> (Nov 2025)	
<b>Designer &amp; Instructor, Deep Learning for the Humanities workshop series</b>	<i>Ongoing</i>
Designed and established the course track; <a href="http://dlfh.aronvandepol.com">dlfh.aronvandepol.com</a>	

## *Additional Work Experience*

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<b>Student Assistant, Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities</b>	<i>2021–Current</i>
Supported introductory Python and digital text analysis courses; contributed to Digital Humanities Lab support for students and staff	
<b>Student Mentor, Department of Korea Studies, Leiden University</b>	<i>2019–2021</i>
Mentored a cohort of approximately 25 students on study methods, practical planning, and progression	
<b>Retail Assistant, Ace&amp;Tate</b>	<i>May 2021–Aug 2021</i>
Customer support and in-house prescription glasses production	
<b>Retail Assistant, IKEA (Lighting Department)</b>	<i>2018–2019</i>
Customer-facing retail work, Duiven, Netherlands	
<b>Internship Chemical Analyst, Farmaceutisch analytisch laboratorium Duiven</b>	<i>2016–2017</i>
Medicine validation; HPLC and additional physical analyses	
<b>Analytical Chemistry Intern, HyET</b>	<i>Feb 2016–Jun 2016</i>
Electrochemical analyses and gas chromatography setup for hydrogen mixture measurements	

## *Methods*

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- Computer vision and visual feature extraction
- Text mining and corpus analysis
- Large language models for historical annotation
- Historical dataset construction and curation
- PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, OpenCV, Matplotlib, Plotly, Seaborn
- Git, Python, Django, Tableau, QGIS, NLP workflows, basic Unix administration

## *Language Skills*

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- Dutch: native
- English: C2 (listening, reading, writing, spoken production, spoken interaction)
- Korean: B2 (listening, reading, writing, spoken production, spoken interaction)