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Fragmenting the Chieftain : a practice-based study of Early Iron Age Hallstatt C elite burials in the Low Countries

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Citation

Vaart, S. A. van der. (2017, December 14). *Fragmenting the Chieftain : a practice-based study of Early Iron Age Hallstatt C elite burials in the Low Countries. Papers on Archaeology of the Leiden Museum of Antiquities*. Sidestone Press, Leiden. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/58610>

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Date: 2017-12-14

Curriculum vitae

Sasja van der Vaart-Verschoof was born on November 18, 1986 in Delft, the Netherlands to a Dutch father and American mother. From 1999 to 2006 she attended the Haags Montessori Lyceum in The Hague, where she obtained her *Gymnasium* diploma. In 2006 she started her studies at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. Here she obtained first a Bachelor degree in Archaeology (*met genoegen* in 2009) followed by a Research Master (*cum laude*) in Prehistoric Farming Communities of North-West Europe in 2012. Her Master-thesis focused on a selection of Dutch elite burials and established that there was still much that could be learned from them. Her thesis was nominated both for the W.A. van Es Prize for Dutch Archaeology (2012) and the Leiden University thesis prize (2012). She also worked on the design and construction of the exhibition “Archaeology of the Netherlands” during a year long internship at the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities.

Upon completion of her Research Master she was appointed as a Research Assistant within the NWO-funded *Ancestral Mounds* project to oversee the final stages of compiling and editing the extensive excavation report of a rich Hallstatt C grave found at Oss-Zevenbergen Mound 7 (Fontijn *et al.* 2013; *Transformation through Destruction. A monumental and extraordinary Early Iron Age Hallstatt C barrow from the ritual landscape of Oss-Zevenbergen*). In the fall of 2009 she was awarded a ‘PhDs in the Humanities’ research grant by the NWO for her research proposal “Constructing powerful identities. The conception and meaning of ‘rich’ Hallstatt burials in the Low Countries (800-500 BC)”, of which the current volume is the result. Throughout her PhD she published several papers, participated in conferences and served as a member of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. She also co-organized an international workshop at Leiden University in collaboration with the Institute for Prehistoric Archaeology of the University of Hamburg, the results of which are published in *Connecting Elites and Regions. Perspectives on contacts, relations and differentiation during the Early Iron Age Hallstatt C period in Northwest and Central Europe* (co-edited with R. Schumann). She is currently also a member of the Reuvendagen Program Committee and works as a freelance archeological consultant, researcher and editor.

