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Arakan and Bengal : the rise and decline of the Mrauk U kingdom (Burma) from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century AD

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Stephan van Galen was born 12 May 1971 in Heemskerk, the Netherlands. He received his secondary education from 1983 to 1987 at the Rynlands Lyceum Oegstgeest and from 1987 tot 1989 at the Strabrecht College in Geldrop. In 1989 he enrolled at Leiden University to study History. In 1992 he went to London to read Imperial History at King's College. He graduated from Leiden University in 1995. In 1995 he won a VSB-scholarship and returned to London to study South Asian History with a minor in Farsi at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He obtained his M.A. from SOAS in 1996. In 1996 he started his research on Arakan in the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library, first as a research assistant and later as a PhD student at Leiden University. The same year he became a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society. From 1997 research focussed on source material available in the archives of the Dutch East India Company in the National Archives, The Hague. In 1999 he travelled to Burma to do research in Arakan itself. In 2001 he became editor for mainland Southeast Asia with the Newsletter of the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) and started work for the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) as policy advisor, first on Quality Assurance later for Research Policy. In 2003 he joined the newly created Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The organisation was established by international treaty and ensures the quality of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders.

Stephan van Galen lives in Leiden and is married to Tanja Steegstra, with whom he has two children: Jan (2003) and Ella (2007).