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Dark horses of business : overseas entrepreneurship in seventeenth-century Nordic trade in the Indian and Atlantic oceans

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Stellingen – propositions

1. Studying individuals is essential to understand how early modern overseas business was orchestrated both in Europe and overseas
2. Following careers of individuals allows historians to understand events and processes, which would otherwise be bypassed in footnotes
3. Early modern European overseas trade is still predominantly focusing on single companies and empires
4. Overseas entrepreneurship was based on training, management of business, social connections, control of information, knowledge distribution and violence
5. In the comparative history of empires, Nordic overseas business is internationally unknown, but nevertheless important to understand the history of northern European long-distance trade
6. Micro-history does not mean answering small questions, but rather looking for larger historiographical problems unforeseen by macro-history
7. The history of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship does not mean praising individuals as heroes, but underlining the need to understand business as a category of analysis in historical studies
8. Studying the history of organisations means departing from the people who form the organisation, rather than the legal informs that determine its genesis
9. The ever-growing importance of the English language in scholarly contexts casts an unwelcomed shadow on the importance of other languages in research
10. With the ever-increasing pressure to publish, PhD-candidates face the expectations of senior scholars but have the experience of junior scholars
11. The growing economic uncertainty within the field of humanities pushes more and more bright minds to look for alternatives elsewhere at a high societal cost