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**Molecular studies of organic residues preserved in ancient vessels**  
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# Propositions

part of

## Molecular Studies of Organic Residues Preserved in Ancient Vessels

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1. Contrary to popular belief amongst archaeologists solid organic residues preserved on ancient pottery are not, in fact, objectionable ‘crud’ that needs to be removed from the surface of precious vessels as fast as possible, but the carriers of valuable information about original diet and vessel use. *This thesis*

2. The molecular study of solid organic surface residues preserved on ceramic vessels can give direct evidence of the preparation and consumption of starches, proteins and lipids by people in the past. *This thesis*

3. Organic residue analysis is one of the most powerful tools in the study of actual ancient vessel use, and as such can help archaeologists determine the function of technologically and morphologically different vessel types. *This thesis*

4. In spite of thousands of years of direct contact, surprisingly little evidence can be found for the exchange of organic compounds between solid surface residues and the soil that surrounded it during burial. *This thesis*

5. Although according to Ratty “There is nothing - absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats,” messing about in the ceramic lab runs a close second as is proven by the extreme growth in the number of publications in the field of ceramic analysis in archaeology since the mid 1980’s.

*Ratty in 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame, 1908*  
*Prudence M. Rice in 'Journal of Archaeological Research', 1996*

6. The ‘Neolithic Revolution’ first described by Gordon Childe in the 1920’s, has long since been accepted as a ‘revolution’ not so much in the sense that its introduction was rapid, but rather to denote its importance and the degree of change it brought about. However, with recent archaeological discoveries of earlier and more diverse signs of domestication it is becoming increasingly clear that these changes were so gradual and varied that the term ‘Neolithic Experimentation’ seems more appropriate - including its

association with learning by trial and error.

*Neolithic people in Britain preferred meat over grain, Richards et al. 'British Archaeology', 1996*  
*11,400 year old domesticated figs from the Jordan Valley, Kislev et al. 'Science', June 2006*

7. A profound investment in the quality of our national education system - including better education and increased salaries for teachers, more money for remedial teaching in schools, more practical training for students in professional education, and greater investment in our higher education - is of utmost importance to prevent the rise of a nation of poor, illiterate and bigoted people. Poverty, illiteracy and bigotry can simultaneously be reduced by raising the level of education the people enjoy.

8. Because the complete integration of a minority into society at large often leads to a decreased visibility of that minority, the gay and lesbian movement in the Netherlands has clearly overshot its goal - the result of 60 years of gay and lesbian liberation is not the celebration of our society's diversity but a new form of homophobia resulting from a renewed invisibility.

*'COC 60 - Wapenfeiten', <http://www.coc.nl/>*

9. Mutual consent ought to be the basis for all laws about sexual conduct between adults.

10. The high number of anti-terrorist laws instituted in the Netherlands since 9/11 is threatening to disturb the democratic balance between the human right to privacy and our government's power to breach it.

11. The first article of the Dutch constitution formulates in beautifully clear language one of the basic principles of our democracy: 'All persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted.' All that is left to us is to live according to this principle.

*Allen die zich in Nederland bevinden worden in gelijke gevallen gelijk behandeld.  
Discriminatie wegens godsdienst, levensovertuiging, politieke gezindheid,  
ras, geslacht of op welke grond dan ook, is niet toegestaan.  
Artikel 1, Grondwet voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden*

12. The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green earth, dwelling deeply in the present moment and feeling truly alive.

*Thich Nhat Hanh in 'Peace is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life', 1992*

Tania Oudemans

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