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Revealing Śiva's superiority by retelling Viṣṇu's deeds: Viṣṇu's manifestation myths in the Skandapurāṇa

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Curriculum Vitae

Sanne Dokter-Mersch, born in Vlaardingen, the Netherlands, in 1989, started a Bachelor in ‘Comparative Indo-European Linguistics’ in 2007 at Leiden University. During her Bachelor, she took classes in linguistics and various languages, and took elective courses on world religions, as well as a minor ‘Law, Culture and Development’. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in 2011, after finishing her Bachelor thesis titled ‘Vedisch *karóti* in de Atharvaveda’ (‘Vedic *karóti* in the Atharvaveda’). Being introduced to the language of Sanskrit and the religions and cultures of South Asia, Dokter-Mersch continued with a Research Master ‘Area Studies: Asian Studies’ in 2011 at Leiden University. She specialized in Sanskrit, Hinduism and manuscript research. During the first semester of the academic year of 2012—2013, she successfully finished multiple classes in Indology at Universität Hamburg, for which she received various grants. In August 2013, she graduated cum laude, after finishing her Master thesis titled ‘Travelling through time and space with the *Kapālamocanamāhātmya* in the *Vāyupurāṇa*’. After gaining work experience outside the academic sector, Dokter-Mersch started her PhD in January 2016 within the NWO-funded project ‘From Universe of Viṣṇu to Universe of Śiva’, instigated by professor Peter C. Bisschop. During her PhD, she specialized in early Śaivism, Vaiṣṇavism, Purāṇa literature and philology, and contributed papers to several international conferences, including the World Sanskrit Conference. As a team member of the *Skandapurāṇa* project, she edited three chapters of the *Skandapurāṇa*, which will be published in the forthcoming volume of the critical edition of the text.