

Living and dying with the state: The Netherlands according to Egyptians in Amsterdam

Ruijtenberg, W.D.

Citation

Ruijtenberg, W. D. (2024, May 28). Living and dying with the state: The Netherlands according to Egyptians in Amsterdam. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3754811

Version: Publisher's Version

Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral

License: thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University

of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3754811

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Acknowledgements

This dissertation is a transit point in an incredible journey, and I am forever grateful to all who have made that journey possible, and worthwhile. I am above all grateful to the Egyptians who welcomed me in their lives, in Cairo, in Amsterdam, and in between. Thanks to the directors of the Egyptian associations, for their warm welcome, and for talking through and helping me make sense of my findings. Thanks also to the people who involved me in their intimate affairs with Dutch institutions, for their trust and their companionship. For the sake of anonymity, I cannot thank individuals here, but I have expressed my gratitude in other ways, and will continue to do so.

I want to thank my supervisors, Anouk de Koning, Toon van Meijl, and Marja Spierenburg, for their support and intellectual guidance. Anouk, thank you for creating such a stimulating environment, for incorporating me into your academic world as one of you, and for helping me overcome my writer's blocks. Toon, thank you for your genuine appreciation of my work, and for your help in developing my arguments further. Marja, thank you for stepping in when that was necessary, your helpful comments, and skillful navigation of the bureaucratic loops one has to jump through to reach this stage. Perhaps the biggest joy of this PhD was to work alongside the members of the Reproducing Europe Team. Soukaina and Lucrezia, you were an absolute blessing. Thank you for being so inspiring, and amazingly fun people, who take things so serious, in such a lighthearted way. Tirza, thank you for joining us for the first part of our journey, and your critical reflections on what it means to become part of the university. Anick and Milena, thank you for your mentorship. Thank you, Moataz, for conducting those interviews with so-categorized 'second generation Egyptians', and for offering your invaluable insights.

It is safe to say that I developed my entire approach to research in (constant) conversation with Iris, Harry, and Neske. Iris, thank you for reminding me of the pleasure of truly studying, not just for exams, but for the joy of learning to think about the world in different ways, which is what you did when we first met, and continue to do. Harry, thank you for showing me how to make space for, and interrogate emotions, both within and outside the scope of research, and for channeling them into direct action. Neske, thank you for helping me reach the logical

conclusion of my work, namely that we should get rid of borders, and for impressing on me the need to not stop there, but to start building the world otherwise, as we are trying to do through *De Verbranders*.

Along the way, I have been part of, and supported by the department of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Radboud University and at Leiden University, and most recently, the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance, and Society at Leiden University. I want to thank all of my incredible colleagues. I am especially grateful to the support staff, Saskia, Elvira, Vera, Louisa, Ilse, and Kora, my PhD peers, Lieke, Adam, Janne, Irene, Nikkie, Nikkie, Tim, Maria, Vincent, Ola, Esther, Fang-I, my co-teachers, Ruben, Anne, Willem, and Shajeela, and my impromptu mentors, Martijn, Tine, Flavio, Jasmijn, Andrew, John, Annemarie, Sabine, Bart, and Matt. I thank everyone of the Crafting Resillience and Prototyping Welfare Teams with whom I am currently collaborating for helping me get to the finish line, Anne, Nicolien, Vivian, Maartje, Charlotte, Yannick, Sabrina, Sharifah, Anke, Lieke, Femke, Venicia, Martha, and Tessa.

In both Egypt and the Netherlands, I was lucky enough to be surrounded by people who cared about my research because they cared about me, but who also provided a much needed perspective outside of it. I want to thank my parents, Piet and Alet, for completely normalizing big dreams, and for providing us with everything we needed to pursue them. I thank my siblings, Suzan, Jan, and Maarten, for doing so alongside of me, with such infectious energy. Thanks also to Ties and Stephanie, for expanding our horizons even further. Thank you Marjan, Frank, Marijn, Daan, and Annelies, and my extended family more generally, for your lasting warmth.

Dear Max, thank you for choosing me as your friend, now twenty years ago, and for always lifting me up.

Thank you Erik, for opening your home in Amsterdam, and for pushing me to make 'your' city mine. Thank you Joris and Devi, for doing so alongside me, and for being reference points throughout the process of writing this dissertation. Thank you, Mari, Belle, Max, Eva, Sam, and Bram, Joris, Devi, and Iris for being my rocks. Thank you Jonathan, for making our home with us, and for your care, especially during fieldwork. Thanks also to my family through love, Ilze, Remko, Machteld, Klaas, and Olivier, for their support.

Thank you Moataz; Pam, Stef, and Harry; and Mostafa, for making Cairo my home. Thank you Eduard, and now Rana, for the endless, anger-fueled conversations, which shaped my understanding of Egypt's political economy, and thus this dissertation. Thank you Frerik, for your friendship, and all the fun.

Thank you Ahmed, for your endless patience, and depth. Thank you Salma, for adopting

me, and Erik, as your family in the Netherlands.

And Riet, my love, thank you for your unconditional love, and endless inspiration through this all. Since the moment we met, I have sharpened every idea that mattered to me against the razorblades of your mind, only to have them nurtured by your endless appetite for thinking things through, with me. I feel so lucky that you pick me to do so, and cannot wait for all the things we will come up with in the future.

And now, hora est. Or, I should say, 70ra now

Curriculum Vitae

Wiebe Ruijtenberg was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on July 16, 1989. Between 2001 and 2008, he attended the Stichtse Vrije School in Zeist, the Netherlands, where he received a preuniversity education. After obtaining a BSc in Sociology from the University of Amsterdam in 2012, he moved to Cairo, Egypt, to study Arabic. In 2013, he enrolled in the Research Master in Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, from which he graduated cum laude with a dissertation on the social life of gated communities in Cairo. In 2015, Wiebe taught urban anthropology at the Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 2016, he started his PhD at the department for Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Radboud University, Nijmegen. In 2018, he was awarded an Erasmus+ Staff Mobility grant to travel to the American University in Cairo, for which he developed and taught the Short Winter Course Migrant Citizenship in an Anxious Europe. In 2020, Wiebe began teaching tutorials at the institute for Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University. In 2021, together with Neske Baerwaldt, he received funding from Leiden University Fund to develop what became De Verbranders, a podcast on Europe's borders and resistance against them. Currently, Wiebe is a postdoctoral researcher in the Crafting Resillience project at the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance and Society, Leiden University. In this new project, Wiebe studies how social-, healthcare, and police workers diagnose their clients, and to what affects.