



Aron van de Pol

PhD Candidate, Digital Humanities & Korean Studies

Leiden University – Leiden Centre for Digital Humanities (LCDH) / Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)

Email: hello@aronvandepol.com · vndepol@gmail.com Website: aronvandepol.com
Phone: (+31) 648164063 ORCID: [0009-0005-1943-0988](https://orcid.org/0009-0005-1943-0988)
Address: Nieuwsteeg 1, 2311 RW Leiden, Netherlands Profiles: [GitHub](#) · [LinkedIn](#)
Nationality: Dutch Personal: Born 30 Apr 1998

Research Profile

I use computer vision, text mining, and large language models to study colonial Korean print culture at scale. My dissertation focuses on two connected domains: typographic variation and printshop practice, and the visual culture of mass advertising in colonial-era newspapers. With Steven Denney, I also study how Korean national identity is constructed and transmitted through state-authored history textbooks using computational text analysis.

Academic Appointments

PhD Candidate, Digital Humanities & Korean Studies Leiden University (LCDH / LIAS), Netherlands	<i>2022–Present</i>
Researcher, Leiden HumAN (Humanities & AI Network) Leiden University	<i>Current</i>
Managing Editor, <i>Korean Histories</i> Editorial and production coordination	<i>Current</i>
Board Member (Research Planning), Korean Association for Digital Humanities (KADH) National scholarly association for digital humanities in Korea	<i>Current</i>
Junior Research Fellow Kyujiangak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University	<i>Jun 2024–Mar 2025</i>

Education

PhD Trajectory, Digital Humanities & Korean Studies Leiden University	<i>2022–Present</i>
M.A. East Asian Studies (Korea specialization) Leiden University	<i>2021–2022</i>

Exchange Student

Feb 2020–Aug 2020

Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea

Korean language training to Sogang Level 4 (TOPIK 4 equivalent); coursework in Digital Humanities and Korean historical research

B.A. Korean Studies

2021

Leiden University

Final grade: 8.2

Thesis: *Quantifying the left; examining the development of socialist thought inside the Korean colonial magazine Kaebŏk*

Analytical Chemistry (unfinished)

2016–2018

Hogeschool Arnhem Nijmegen, Netherlands

Chemical Analyst Vocational Track

2014–2016

Rijn IJssel, Netherlands

Grants & Fellowships

Overseas Korean Studies Grant (KS-2026-R-094)

2026

Academy of Korean Studies (with Steven Denney, PI)

Junior Research Fellowship

2024–2025

Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University

Publications

Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL

(in prep.)

Conference paper.

Aron van de Pol, Jelena Prokic, Angus Mol

Constructing the Nation: Identity and Historical Narratives in South Korean History Textbooks

(in prep.)

Journal article.

Steven Denney, Aron van de Pol

Selected Talks

- **Pixels of Persuasion** – 18th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies, Seoul National University (Nov 2025)
- **Pixels of Persuasion** – Analog Memory, Digital Vision?, Palacký University Olomouc (Oct 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – CLIN 35, Leiden University (Sep 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – ADHO 2025, NOVA University Lisbon (Jul 2025)
- **Pixels of Persuasion** – AKSE 2025, University of Edinburgh (Jun 2025)
- **Visual Feature Discovery in Colonial Korean Print using MIL** – DHBenelux 2025, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Jun 2025)
- **Viewing Patterns of Printers, Digitally, Distantly** – 17th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies, Seoul National University (Nov 2024)
- **The DH Cookbook in Korean Studies** – Korea Studies Forum Leiden 2024, Leiden University (Oct 2024)

- **Exploring the Influence of Colonial Korean Print Shops with Computer Vision** – KUGS 11th Annual Korea University Graduate Student Conference, Korea University (Apr 2024)
- **DH Benelux 2021: Charting Kaebyök's Semantics** – Leiden (Jun 2021)

Teaching & Guest Lectures

Teaching Assistant, <i>Hacking the Humanities: An Introduction to Python and Text Mining</i>	2021–2022
Leiden University; beginner Python pathway for humanities students	
Teaching Assistant, <i>NLP for the Humanities</i>	2023
Leiden University	
Teaching Assistant, <i>Special Topics in Digital Humanities</i>	2022 (two editions), 2025
Leiden University	
Guest Lecturer, <i>AI & the Humanities</i>	2023, 2025, 2026
Leiden University	
Guest Lecturer, Department of Korean History, Seoul National University	Feb 2025, Nov 2025
Lecture topics: <i>The Visual Turn</i> (Feb 2025) and <i>Ways of Seeing</i> (Nov 2025)	
Designer & Instructor, Deep Learning for the Humanities workshop series	Ongoing
Designed and established the course track; dlfh.aronvandepol.com	

Additional Work Experience

Student Assistant, Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities	2021–Current
Supported introductory Python and digital text analysis courses; contributed to Digital Humanities Lab support for students and staff	
Student Mentor, Department of Korea Studies, Leiden University	2019–2021
Mentored a cohort of approximately 25 students on study methods, practical planning, and progression	
Retail Assistant, Ace&Tate	May 2021–Aug 2021
Customer support and in-house prescription glasses production	
Retail Assistant, IKEA (Lighting Department)	2018–2019
Customer-facing retail work, Duiven, Netherlands	
Internship Chemical Analyst, Farmaceutisch analytisch laboratorium Duiven	2016–2017
Medicine validation; HPLC and additional physical analyses	
Analytical Chemistry Intern, HyET	Feb 2016–Jun 2016
Electrochemical analyses and gas chromatography setup for hydrogen mixture measurements	

Methods

- Computer vision and visual feature extraction
- Text mining and corpus analysis
- Large language models for historical annotation

- Historical dataset construction and curation
- PyTorch, NumPy, Pandas, OpenCV, Matplotlib, Plotly, Seaborn
- Git, Python, Django, Tableau, QGIS, NLP workflows, basic Unix administration

Language Skills

- Dutch: native
- English: C2 (listening, reading, writing, spoken production, spoken interaction)
- Korean: B2 (listening, reading, writing, spoken production, spoken interaction)