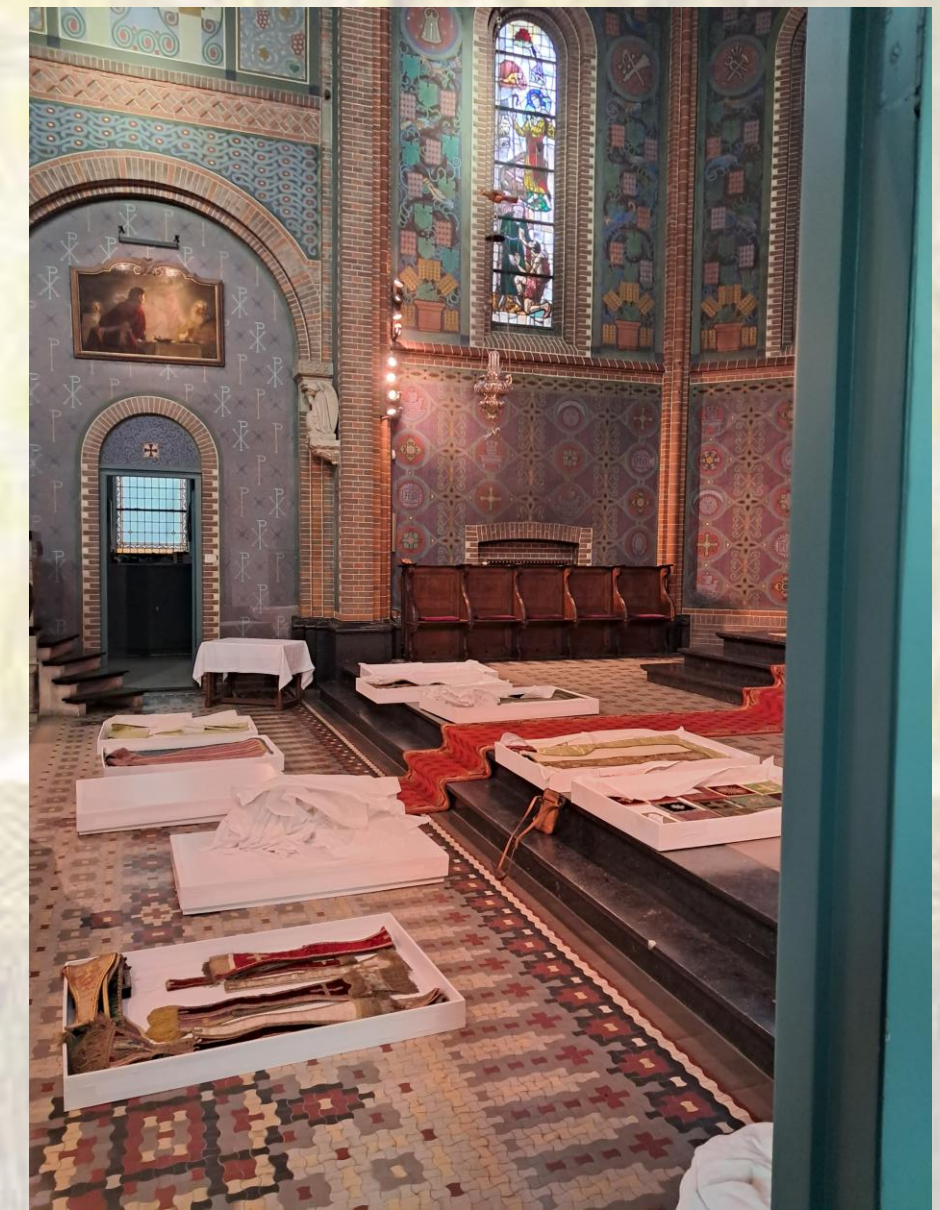


COLLECTING (FOR) ETERNITY?

TIME FOR A SUSTAINABLE CONCEPT OF HERITAGE

Why: Rethinking eternal preservation

The practice of collecting and preserving **moveable church heritage** is reaching an impasse. In the highly secularised Dutch society, churches are constantly closing, resulting in a large number of objects becoming available. **Museum storage** spaces are reaching their **capacity limits**. Moreover, **the climate crisis** compels us to reconsider the use of energy in heritage preservation. This project is aimed to **rethink eternal preservation** as the leading adage in museum and heritage practices. An extraordinary collection of Dutch Old-Catholic **liturgical textiles** (ca.1500–1900) – still largely kept in churches under conditions unsuitable for these fragile items – serves as case study for this project.



What: exploring future scenarios

How can we best pass on movable church heritage? In light of the climate crisis, is it truly responsible to pass on overflowing storage facilities to future generations? What impact does musealisation have on the meaning of church objects? For whom are we preserving church heritage in a secularised society? **What sustainable alternatives** are there to museum preservation?

This project **explores future scenarios** for liturgical textiles and their potential impact on **current and future communities of heirs**, including **preservation and ongoing use *in situ***, **documentation**, and – as a sensitive but realistic scenario – the deliberate choice to **let go of** objects.

How: a collective effort

A sustainable future for church heritage is a collective effort. Through **interviews** and **roundtable discussions**, **church communities** and **heritage experts** are invited to contribute their ideas.

These conversations focus on themes such as **liturgical, cultural-historical and community value**, material authenticity, ownership and heirship, **deaccessioning practices**, and **sustainable acquisition practices**.

Who:

dr. Jacolien Wubs (postdoc, j.wubs1@uu.nl)

dr. Tijana Zakula (PI, t.zakula1@uu.nl)



Utrecht
University



klimaat
en
erfgoed



OUD-KATHOLIEKE KERK



nationale
wetenschaps
agenda