

Name and position

Dr. Paul Vermeer

Assistant professor for the empirical study of religion

Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies

Radboud University Nijmegen

Assistant professor for religious education

Institute for Teacher Training

Radboud University Nijmegen



Contact; address; telephone; e-mail; website

Dr. Paul Vermeer

Radboud University Nijmegen

Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies

Erasmusplein 1

6525HT Nijmegen

The Netherlands

PO Box 9103

6500 HD Nijmegen

The Netherlands

Phone: 00 31 23 361 14 59

Email: p.vermeer@ftr.ru.nl

Website: <http://www.ru.nl/ftr/>

Short background and CV

I have a degree in theology from the University of Tilburg; Bachelor and Master (1987) and I received my PhD in theology from the University of Tilburg in 1999.

After my graduation, I started my professional career as a religious education teacher in secondary education (1987 – 1988). Next I became a PhD-student and worked for four years on a research project concerning theodicy and religious education (1988 – 1992). The project involved the design and empirical testing of a religious education curriculum on the problem of evil for secondary education. Subsequently, I worked for seven years in the Dutch army as a chaplain (1992 – 1999). I was specifically occupied with the moral, and partly also, the religious education of Dutch soldiers as they prepared for foreign missions. In the meantime I

finished my dissertation and after I received my PhD I was appointed as an assistant professor at the Radboud University (1999 – present). This is still my current position. As an assistant professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies I teach courses in the religious studies programme on: sociology of religion, pedagogy of religion and academic skills. As an assistant professor at the Institute for Teacher Training I teach courses on the didactics of RE.

Research interests and research fields

In the Netherlands RE is a confessional subject and is only part of the curriculum in religiously affiliated schools. But since most schools in the Netherlands are religiously affiliated schools, RE is widespread in the Dutch educational system. On the other hand, secularization is also widespread in the Netherlands and the Dutch student population is becoming increasingly secular. Many religiously affiliated schools, therefore, are populated by a growing number of students with no religious background whatsoever. This situation has resulted in three major research interests: reflecting on the legitimacy of RE in school from a secular, pedagogical perspective (1), considering the (religious) worldviews of Dutch youths (2) and studying processes of intergenerational, religious transmission in the family in order to come to a deeper understanding (one) of the causes of the ongoing process of secularization in the Netherlands (3). My research fields thus regard RE in school as well as religious socialization in the family and I conduct theoretical as well as empirical studies.

Current projects

As from 2007 I conducted a longitudinal, panel study into the effects of a religious upbringing on religious commitment later in life. This study has resulted in the publication of six articles and a final, seventh, article is forthcoming. At the moment I am preparing a follow-up study into the possible effects of a religious upbringing on pro-social behaviour, i.e. volunteering and philanthropy, later in life.

Bibliography

Books

- Vermeer, P. & Alii, E.T. (2009). *Godsdienstpedagogiek. Dimensies en Spanningsvelden*. Zoetermeer: Meinema.
- Vermeer, P. (1999). *Learning theodicy. The problem of evil and the praxis of religious education*. Leiden: Brill (PhD dissertation).

Book chapters and articles in books

- Sterkens, C. & Vermeer, P. (2012). Het (on)mogelijke godsdienstonderwijs. Jongeren en religie anno 2011. In: D. Pollefeyt & E. De Boeck (red.). *Tegenwoordig. Jeugd en geloofscommunicatie* (pp. 51-77). Leuven/Den Haag: Acco.
- Willems, F., Denessen, E., Hermans, C. & Vermeer, P. (2010). Een duurzame benadering van burgerschapsbevordering. De relatie tussen voorbeeldgedrag van leerkrachten en hun perceptie van schoolcultuur. In: C. Hermans & Th. Van der Zee (red.). *Duurzaam onderwijs. Een andere kijk op passend onderwijs* (pp. 75-97).
- Vermeer, P. (2009). Religieuze opvoeding in het gezin: doet dat er (nog) toe? In: C. Van Halen, M. Prins & R. Van Uden (red.). *Religie doen. Religieuze praktijken in tijden van individualisering* (pp. 42-57). Tilburg: KSGV.
- Vermeer, P. (2007). Supervisie als voorbeeldleren. In: S. Körver & W. Regouin (red.). *Professionele begeleiding en spiritualiteit. Pastorale supervisie nader verkend* (pp. 119-139). Houten: Bohn Stafleu van Loghum.
- Vermeer, P. (2006). Are Dutch Youths Trading in Religion for Spirituality? In: K. Tirri (ed.). *Religion, Spirituality & Identity*. (pp. 103-118). Bern: Peter Lang.

- Vermeer, P. (2004). Freedom of Religion as a Meta-norm. Relating Theological and Pedagogical Normativeness in Empirical Research into Religious Education. In: J.A. van der Ven & M. Scherer-Rath (Eds.). *Normativity and Empirical Research in Theology*. (pp. 269-288). Leiden: Brill.
- Vermeer, P. (2004). Religion: a Forgotten Dimension of School-related Religious Education Research. In: R. Larsson & C. Gustavsson (Eds.). *Towards a European Perspective on Religious Education* (pp. 102-115). Skelleftea: Artos & Norma Bokförlag.
- Vermeer, P. (2004). Learning Religion in a Plural Society. In H. Lombaerts & D. Pollefeyt (Eds.), *Hermeneutics and Religious Education* (pp. 153-172). Leuven: Peeters.
- Vermeer, P. (2004). The Emerging Subject: Development of the Hermeneutic Basis of Johannes A. van der Ven's Religious and Moral Pedagogy. In: C.A.M. Hermans & M.E. Moore (Eds.). *Hermeneutics and Empirical Research in Theology. The Contribution of Empirical Theology by Johannes A. van der Ven*. (pp. 217-243). Leiden: Brill.
- Vermeer, P. (2003). De vorming van een religieuze identiteit als nieuw godsdienstpedagogisch concept. In: H. van Crombrugge & N. Vansieleghem (red.). *Kleur(en) (be)kennen. Onderwijs, levensbeschouwing en religie* (pp. 113-136). Gent: Academia Press.
- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (1998). Learning to cope with suffering. In: A. Ploeger en C. Sterkens (eds.). *Search for meaning. Education into realms of meaning in a plural society* (pp. 63-93). Kampen: Kok.
- Articles in journals*
- Willems, F., Denessen, E., Hermans, C. & Vermeer, P. (2012). 'Silent Citizenship Educators' in Dutch Catholic Schools: Exploring Teachers' Moral Beliefs about Citizenship in Relation to Their Conduct of Citizenship Education. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*, 25, 1, 77-98.
- Vermeer, P. (2012). Meta-concepts, thinking skills and religious education. In: *British Journal of Religious Education*, 34, 3, 333-347. DOI 10.1080/01416200.2012.663748.
- Vermeer, P., Janssen, J. & Scheepers, P. (2012). Authoritative Parenting and the Transmission of Religion in the Netherlands: A panel Study. In: *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 22, 1, 42-59.
- Willems, F., Denessen, E., Hermans, C. & Vermeer, P. (2012). Students' perceptions and teachers' self-ratings of modelling civic virtues: an exploratory empirical study in Dutch primary schools. In: *Journal of Moral Education*, 1-17.
- Vermeer, P. & Scheepers, P. (2012). Religious Socialization and Non-Religious Volunteering: A Dutch Panel Study. In: *Voluntas*, 23, 4, 940-958. DOI 10.1007/s11266-011-9244-y.
- Vermeer, P., Janssen, J. & De Hart, J. (2011). Religious Socialization and Church Attendance in the Netherlands from 1983 to 2007: a Panel Study. In: *Social Compass*, 58, 3, 373-392.
- Vermeer, P. & Janssen, J. (2011). Belonging and Believing among Dutch Forty-Year –Olds: A Panel Study. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*, 24, 1, 57-79.
- Vermeer, P. (2011). The impact of parental religiosity on parenting goals and parenting style: a Dutch perspective. In: *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, 32, 1, 69-84.
- Vermeer, P. (2010). Religious Education and Socialization. In: *Religious Education*, 105, 1, 103-116.
- Willems, F., Denessen, E., Hermans, C. & Vermeer, P. (2010). Citizenship education in religious schools: an analysis of tolerance in Catholic schools from a virtue ethical point of view. In: *Journal of Beliefs & Values*, 31, 2, 215-229.
- Vermeer, P. (2009). Denominational schools and the (religious) socialisation of youths: a changing relationship. In: *British Journal of Religious Education*, 31, 3, 197-207.
- Vermeer, P. (2007). Trends in Religious Affiliation: Some Reflections on the Research of Geert Driessen. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 20, 2, 250-262.
- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (2006). Comparing Religious and Moral Socialisation: Experiences of Dutch Youth. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*, 19, 2, 203-226.
- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (2004). Looking at the Relationship Between Religions. An Empirical Study Among Secondary School Students. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 17, 1, 36-59.

- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (2003). Moral Consciousness of Secondary School Students: Six Moral Orientations. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 16, 1, 51-71.
- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (2002). Students' Moral Consciousness: Teleology, Deontology and Practical Wisdom. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 15, 1, 54-75.
- Vermeer, P. & Van der Ven, J.A. (2001). Religious identity formation: An educational approach. In: *International Journal of Education and Religion*. 2, 2, 107-125.
- Pieper, J.Z. & Vermeer, P. (2001). Religious Consciousness of Dutch Youth. Consequences for Religious Education. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 14, 2, 53-74.
- Vermeer, P., Van der Ven, J.A., & Vossen, H.J.M. (1997). Education for Coping with Suffering. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 10, 1, 61-83.
- Vermeer, P., Van der Ven, J.A. & Vossen, H.J.M. (1996). Learning Theodicy. In: *Journal of Empirical Theology*. 9, 2, 67-85.
- Vermeer, P., Vossen, H.J.M. & Van der Ven, J.A. (1991). Theodicy and Rationalization. In: *Bijdragen. Tijdschrift voor filosofie en theologie*. 52, 3, 293-317.