



You are cordially invited
to a lecture by

Dr. John Exalto
(University of Groningen)

Tuesday September 30, 2025,
4 p. m.

in the meeting room
of the Centre for medieval stu-
dies

Institute of Philosophy,
Jilská 1, Prague 1

Commemorating Comenius:
Monuments and Memorials
in the Netherlands,
1892–1992

The lecture explores the monuments of Comenius in the Netherlands from 1892 to 1992, focusing on how political and cultural developments influenced the perception and appropriation of Comenius in public spaces. Key moments in the placement of these monuments occurred in 1892, 1920, and 1957. Initially, Dutch responses to Comenius monuments were positive, recognizing his broader significance beyond being a national icon of Czechoslovakia. However, during the Cold War, the Dutch government was hesitant to accept a new Comenius statue due to political tensions, although it was ultimately accepted without political fanfare. An incident in the 1970s, involving a clash over interpretations of freedom, highlighted further strain in relations between the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia.

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