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Education

2018 Independent PhD researcher, Faculty Social Sciences, Leiden University, Netherlands
 1991 Masters in Cultural Anthropology, minor Philosophy, Leiden University, Netherlands.
 1989 Philosophy and Art History, School of Visual Arts, New York.

Professional Experience

2020 * Researcher for 'TaskForce-RIEC Brabant Zeeland', researching 'Emergence of Crystal Meth'

2018-2020 * Researcher and Consultant for 'TaskForce-RIEC Brabant Zeeland', researching 'Global Trends in drug-induced disintegration' and 'Influence Corona on drugs traffic border area Brabant'

2018-2019 * Researcher for city council of Antwerp into social, cultural and economic context of drug trade.

2013-2018 * PhD dissertation on Extreme Violence in Mexican Drug War at Leiden University.

2015-2017 * Documentary maker – together with Maaïke Engels – focusing on refugee crisis in Calais and *sicarios* (assassins for hire) in Mexico

1989-present * Freelance photographer and writer, covering the conflicts and social issues in Bosnia, Haïti, Chechnya, Colombia, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, DR Congo, Kosovo, Angola, Iraq, Liberia, Gaza, Georgia, Iran, China, North Korea, Honduras, Mexico, Libya, Mexico, Syria, Ukraine, Calais, Molenbeek, Kurdistan.

* Working for/published in publications such as Vanity Fair, The New Yorker, NY Times Magazine, Newsweek, National Geographic Magazine, CNN, US News & World Report, Granta, Details, The Village Voice, ID, LA Weekly, Macleans, Vrij Nederland, NRC, Volkskrant, Elsevier, De Morgen, De Standaard, Le Soir, Frankfurter Allgemeine, etc, and organizations such as The International Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Crimes of War, PixelPress, Save The Children, International Crisis Group.

* Volunteer at San'Egidio Antwerp, shelter for homeless, urban poor, drug addicts during corona crisis

* Anthropological consultant and conflict analyst for Transition International

* Security consultant and conflict analyst for DECC.nl and EASPAir.nl

* Documentary maker and producer 'Calais: Welcome to the Jungle'

* Guest curator 'GEMAK' Cultural Center, War Photography since 9/11, Den Haag

* Documentary maker, cameraman and co-producer for Tetteroo Productions, Netherlands.

* Book Translation (non-fiction) from Dutch to English (Tunnel People, PM Press)

* Teacher / Lecturer at photo workshops for Three Dot Dash, We Are Family Foundation, New York, Cal Arts, Valencia (California), The Producers Project, New York.

* Guest lecturer at Universities and Cultural Institutions worldwide

* Contributor 'Encyclopedia of Human Rights Violations'

* Still photographer / consultant for documentary 'Dark Days'

* Radio reports/dispatches for Belgian and Dutch National Radio.

* Production for Kanakna Documentary, Brussels

* Fundraising Activities for MAPC Homeless Shelter, New York

1999 * Initiator campaign to raise funds for the Kalangba Agricultural Secondary School in Sierra Leone.

1994/1995 * Research / Participant observation in homeless community, living in the tunnels under Manhattan.

1994 * Coordinator in a Dutch/Belgian campaign to support the independent media in Sarajevo.

1991 * Three months participant observation in gold diggers community in Ecuadorian Andes.

Publications (books)

- 2020 * *'Mexican Drug Violence: Hybrid Warfare, Predatory Capitalism and the Logic of Cruelty.* Small Wars Journal Books: Los Angeles
- 2020 * *'Drugs: Antwerpen in de greep van de Nederlandse Syndicaten.* Van Halewyck, Antwerpen, April 2020
- 2018 * *'The Mexican Drug Violence: PhD Thesis,* Leiden University.
- 2018 * *'Het Mexicaanse Drugsgeweld: een nieuw type oorlog, roofkapitalisme en de logica van wreedheid.* De Blauwe Tijger, Groningen.
- 2012 * *'Narco Estado, Drug Violence in Mexico.'* Lannoo, Belgium.
- 2011 * *'Generation 9/11, 10 Years War Photography after 9/11'*, GEMAK, The Hague.
- 2010 * *'Tunnel People'*, PM Press, Oakland (CA) (translated from the original Dutch)
- 2006 * *'Saddam Mania.,* Think Tank 3, New York
- 2005 * *'New York, New York.* VIPs Gallery, Rotterdam
- 2002 * *'How de Body. One Man's Terrifying Journey Through an African Civil War'*, St. Martins Press, New York.
- 2000 * *'How de Body. Hoop en Horror in Sierra Leone'*, Meulenhoff Publishers, Amsterdam.
- 1999 * *'A Ticket To'*, Veenman Publishers/Center for Contemporary Arts, Ede/Leiden, Netherlands.
- 1996 * *'Tunnelmensen'* (Tunnel People), Atlas Publishers, Amsterdam.

Video Productions

- 2017 * *'Sacrifice: Sicarios in Juarez'* Production, script, for short doc made with Maaïke Engels for Canvas TV
- 2016 * *'Calais: Welcome to the Jungle'* Production, script, footage for documentary made with Maaïke Engels
- 2010 * *'Opgroeiën tussen de Kogels'* 15 minutes TV documentary on violence Juarez, for Netwerk TV
- 2009 * *'Restrepo'* Additional footage for award winning documentary by Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington.

Awards and Grants

- 2013 * 2010, 2005, 2004, 1999, 1995, 1994, Zilveren Camera Photojournalism Competition, awards category Foreign News, for Mexico Drug Violence, Liberia, Iraq, North Korea, DR Congo, Sierra Leone, Bosnia
- 2011 * Magnum Foundation Emergency Grant. Grant for working on Mexican Drug Violence.
* Harry Chapman Media Awards, New York, Laureate for Congo Chukudu series.
- 2009 * Harry Chapman Media Awards, New York, Nomination for China Pollution series.
- 2005 * Nominated for LA Press Club and Association of Alternative Weeklies Awards for "Afghanistan Embedded"
* PDN (Photo District News) Yearbook 2005, Honorable mentioning DR Congo for Newsweek
- 2004 * American Photography Yearbook, Mentioning Liberia for Vanity Fair.
* Harry Chapman Media Awards, New York, Nomination for Liberia series.
- 2000 * Sais-Novartis Award (Washington DC), for Vanity Fair article 'The Terror of Sierra Leone'.
* Laureate Natali Award (EC Brussels) for Journalism and Human Rights.
- 1992 * Nomination Prof. Speckmann prijs, Best Cultural Anthropologic Fieldwork, Leiden University.

Readings, Guest Lectures and Appointments (selection)

Faculty Social Sciences Leiden University, TUFT University Boston, Art Academy Gent (B), Art Academy Brussels, Design Academy Eindhoven (NL), Police Academy Woensdrecht (NL), Military Academy Breda (NL), Faculty Social Sciences, Erasmus Rotterdam, Philosophy Department New York University, Journalism Department Columbia University, Anthropology Department Cambridge University, Sociology Department Gent University, Photo Museum Rotterdam, Photo Museum Den Haag, Photo Museum Charleroi, Photo Festival Leiden, Photo Festival New York, Federation Flemish Prison Directors, Maritime Museum, Rotterdam, Penitentiary Institution (Prison) Antwerp, Royal Dutch Army at Marine facilities Amsterdam.

Languages: Dutch: native, English: second language, Spanish, French German: Fluent, Serbo-Croatian: moderate