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Who am I?

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Born: 17 March 1970, Eindhoven, the Netherlands
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Professional experience

2006 – ongoing:	Author and Project leader of four different multiannual EU-cooperation projects (42 partner organisations) with a total value of about 4,4 million Euro. Goal was the professionalization of organisations in cultural tourism. Themes were digitisation, interpretation, and visitors.
2000 – ongoing:	Advisor of several archaeological open-air museums in Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands.
2021 – 2023:	Director at the Middelaldercentret (Denmark). In 2022, we could raise the visitor numbers with about 10%, compared to the average of the previous decade. My focus was at structuring and professionalisation.
2013 – 2016:	(Interim) director at the Archäologisches Freilichtmuseum Oerlinghausen. Visitor numbers grew by 25%.
2009 – 2011:	Project assistant of the Time Travel Project, University Lund (Sweden). A digital communication project together with the museums Lofotr (Norway), Sagnlandet Lejre (Denmark) and Uppåkra (Sweden).
2007 – 2016:	Owner of Archeo Interface, Archaeology and Public. Strategies for archaeological open-air museums all over Europe.
2002 – 2006:	Personal referent of the director at Prehistorisch Dorp, archaeological Open-Air Museum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

Education

2005 – 2012:	Ph.D., University of Exeter, UK These: "The Value of an Archaeological Open-Air Museums is in its Use. Understanding Archaeological Open-Air Museums and their Visitors"
1989 – 1998:	BA & MA in archaeology, Leiden University, the Netherlands These: "In alien fairway, what is the use to archaeology for modern cog like vessels?"
1982 – 1989:	Gymnasium, van Maerlant, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

Volunteer work

2022 – ongoing:	Board member, Local Action Group (LAG) for European Network for Rural Development. Distributing EU funding to local relevant projects.
2017 – ongoing:	Honorary research fellow, University of Exeter, UK
2000 – ongoing:	Cofounder and current director, EXARC. The international network for archaeological open-air museums, experimental archaeology, ancient technology and interpretation. About 425 members in over 40 countries.
1995 – 2001:	Coordinator, purchasing and digitisation, Wereldwinkel Leiden, the Netherlands. The revenue rose by 350%.

Distinctions

2012: Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau

The recognition focused on my contributions to archaeology and the very important role I played in the development of the international EXARC network.

2015: Museum Horizon Award

Awarded by the Hans Manneby Memorial Fund for Museum Development for my dedicated work and important contribution to professionalizing the role of archaeological open-air museums in terms of financial management, interpretation, and public relations.

Memberships

EXARC, EXAR, ALHFAM, ICOM, ICOMOS, Rotary

Languages

- Dutch: mother tongue
- English: C1 (IELTS: 9/9, PhD in Exeter, UK)
- German: C1 (Three years living and working in Germany)
- Danish: C1 (PD3: 11/11, two years living and working in Denmark)

Characteristics

- I like working with people, I treat everyone as equals. With empathy, I manage to inspire others to do their jobs.
- My transparent way of working enables cooperation without friction.
- Communication is my strength, both internally and externally, for example with stakeholders or the media.
- I always take responsibility for my actions and identify with my work.
- My attitude towards life is characterized by optimism.
- I work in a systematic and structured way; my analytical thinking helps me to find practical solutions.
- I don't mind time pressure and difficult situations; they do not diminish my commitment or the results.
- I have a high level of self-motivation, am rich in ideas and initiatives. I improvise within given framework conditions but like to think outside the box where necessary.

Hobbies

- Contacts with my friends all over the world, personally or virtually or in social media
- Nature walks

Publications (selection)

2020:	<i>Experience instead of Event: Changes in Open-Air Museums Post-Coronavirus</i> , by R. Paardekooper and A. Pothaar In: EXARC Journal 2020/2, https://exarc.net/ark:/88735/10499
2020:	<i>The Use and Relevance of Archaeological Open-Air Museums</i> In: EXARC Journal 2020/1, https://exarc.net/ark:/88735/10482
2019:	<i>Everybody Else is doing It, so Why Can't We? Low-tech and High-tech Approaches in Archaeological Open-Air Museums</i> In: EXARC Journal 2019/4, https://exarc.net/ark:/88735/10457
2017:	<i>The Roman Limes on the Lower Rhine: A European Border's Visibility in Landscape and Museums</i> by R. de Bruin, A. Hertog and R. Paardekooper In: A. Mac Devitt, M. Foehn & S. Heft (editors), <i>Museum International</i> , Vol. 69, pp 273-274, 2017, <i>Museums and Cultural Landscapes: New Directions Cultural Routes Field Reports</i> , Paris: ICOM & Blackwell Publishing, pp 114-125.
2016:	<i>Archäologische Freilichtmuseen: Geschichte, Qualität und Praxis</i> In: O. Chvojka <i>et al.</i> (editors), <i>Fines Transire</i> 15, 2016, Archäologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ostbayern/West- und Südböhmen/Oberösterreich, 25. Treffen, 2015 in Bärnau, Rahden/Westf.: Verlag Marie Leidorf GmbH, pp 53-60.
2014:	<i>Experiments Past, Histories of Experimental Archaeology</i> , J. Reeves Flores & R. Paardekooper (editors), Leiden: Sidestone Press.
2013:	<i>Archaeological open-air museums across Europe. Their 125 years history and a debate on their future</i> In: J. Gancarski (editor), <i>Skanseny Archeologiczne i Archeologia Eksperymentalna</i> , proceedings of the 2006 Krosno Conference, Krosno: Muzeum Archeologiczne, pp 13-34.
2013:	<i>An Experiment of Integrated Technologies in Digital Archaeology: Creation of New Pipelines to Increase the Perception of Archaeological Data</i> by N. Dell'Unto, M. Wallergård, M. Dellepiane, S. Lindgren, J. Eriksson, B. Petersson, R. Paardekooper In: F. Contreras, M. Farjas and F.J. Melero (editors), <i>Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference on Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology, CAA2010</i> , pp 463-468.
2013:	<i>Performance in Experimental Archaeology, Any Possibility for Unambiguous Statements?</i> In: T. Kerig & A. Zimmermann (editors), <i>Economic Archaeology: From Structure to Performance</i> , Habelt (UPA series), pp 264-272.
2012:	<i>The Value of an Archaeological Open-Air Museum is in its use. Understanding Archaeological Open-Air Museums and their Visitors</i> Leiden, Sidestone Press, 342 pp. (PhD Thesis, available at http://www.sidestone.com/bookshop/the-value-of-an-archaeological-open-air-museum-is-in-its-use)
2011:	<i>Experimental Activities, a European Perspective</i> In: B. Petersson & L. Narmo (editors), <i>Experimental Archaeology, between enlightenment and experience</i> , vol. 62, <i>Acta Archeologica Lundensia</i> , Lund: Lund University, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, pp 69-86.
2010:	<i>Archaeological Open-Air Museums as Time Travel Centres</i> In: <i>Lund Archaeological Review</i> , vol. 2009-2010, Lund: Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Lund, pp 61-70.