

The Department of Dutch Studies

invites you to a public lecture on

Social and behavioral functions of literature

by Prof. dr. Marita Mathijsen (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

On **Wednesday 9 December 2015**, at 18:00 PM at the Faculty
of Arts (room nr. 317)

Marita Mathijsen is Emeritus Professor of Modern Dutch Literature at the University of Amsterdam, she specializes in the literature of the nineteenth century in the Netherlands.

For a short bio of the speaker, see [page](#).



In the nineteenth century the writing of works of literature was hardly a non-committal affair. Literary authors meant their works to serve society. Literature should point the way for the citizenry toward the new standards and values of a society that, in the aftermath of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era, had undergone and kept undergoing radical change. Looking around, authors noticed social afflictions and either initiated or contributed to a combat against them, whether this concerned the slave trade, child labor, or the death penalty. They employed to that end the only weapon at their disposal, the pen.