

PRESS RELEASE

18 JANUARY 2012

VU  UNIVERSITY
AMSTERDAM

LOOKING FURTHER

Lost in Srebrenica

The failed UN Srebrenica peacekeeping mission is still haunting Dutch society and international politics, as the many court cases related to Srebrenica and the new and old Srebrenica issues regularly popping up in the media show. Erna Rijdsdijk discusses this “spectre of Srebrenica” in her PhD thesis *Lost in Srebrenica*.

International responsibility

What is the meaning of international responsibility? Politicians, diplomats, soldiers, journalists, academics, lawyers, survivors and activists have answered this question in various ways over the past years, however, some aspects of responsibility appear to escape the rules of politics and law. In *Lost in Srebrenica*, Erna Rijdsdijk introduces a new perspective on questions of international responsibility. She analyses the process in which the violence in Srebrenica became a subject in discourse and relates this to the framing of international responsibility. She argues that important questions of ethics and politics get lost in the representations of traumatic events like those in Srebrenica. The themes that are discussed include the ethics and effectiveness of international intervention, the conceptualisation of the violence as genocide, ethnic identity and community, the foreseeability of events, and the role of witnesses and bystanders to the crimes.

Political analysis

Although this thesis refers to past events, its objective is to give a political analysis of the continuing process of the shaping and framing of international responsibility in the Srebrenica discourse, rather than providing a historiography of the peacekeeping mission. It shows that the Dutch NIOD Srebrenica report and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague do not just represent the events in Srebrenica, but also play an important role in this shaping and framing of international responsibility.

NOTE TO EDITORS

See for an outline of the thesis: <http://dare.ubvu.vu.nl/handle/1871/32725>

name	Erna Rijdsdijk
date public presentation	2 February 2012, 15:45h
place	VU University, De Boelelaan 1105, Aula, Amsterdam
faculty	Faculty of Law
external organisations	Netherlands Defence Academy (NLDA), University of Newcastle, British Council, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, International Federation of University Women.

Press office VU University

T 020 5985666

E pers@vu.nl

Erna Rijdsijk

T

E