



TO-GATHER

WALKSHOP 'In my city'

Intended for secondary school pupils, post-secondary vocational education and university students, the elderly and others at all places.

Designed by Wim Kratsborn in collaboration with Bouke Mekel (feedback and multimedia) and Jan Doddema (music and production).



Welcome to the Forum for an interactive, energising and creative walk or walkshop along 6 places in Groningen. Along the way, you will encounter six crises or 'Crisix':

- protests (demonstrations)
- unhealthiness and poverty
- modern slavery
- war and violence
- inequality
- climate change

It all takes place in To-Gatherland: 'It's not on the map, but everyone is looking for it'. During the walkshop, you will take this booklet with information, assignments, excerpts from the novel 'Smouldering Fire', pictures and music. In fact, the young people in the novel take the same walk. The walkshop lasts 1 ½ hours and deals with past and present, citizenship and culture. So decide yourself which fragment from the novel, you can/want to read. This way, you will get to know Groningen in a different way. 'Hey ho, let's go!'. Listen to the song "In my city". Feel free to sing along as it is written to the tune of 'In my blood' by Snelle. Present the walkshop with drama/dance,

'In my city' (<https://youtu.be/TDOShbRESzU>)

*"I notice when I'm walking in my city. Protests, inequality and modern slaves
War, unhealthiness and climate change, obstacles in my path.*

Ah it's not all gold that shines. Don't panic, this is not the Titanic!

*'However old I am, the more I understand That I should be a citizen, because that's what I am
Demonstrators on the Market mean well but
What time does not change, that I may be free, may be free in my city' Oh oh oh oh oh*

*'Go to the Vismarkt in my city for a healthy sandwich or a greasy bite?
The shore turns the ship on the Westerhaven. Humanitas and Globe help refugees. And that's all right*

To my City where the grass is green and the girls are pretty'.

*'However old I am, the more I understand that I should be a citizen 'cause that's what I am
Demonstrators on the Market mean well but
What time does not change, that I may be free, may be free in my city'. Oh oh oh oh oh*

'Don't think white, don't think black, but in the color of your heart'.

*Visit 'Wereldburgers' and 'Museum aan de A'. Zuiderdiep and Ukraine filled with war and hatred,
Bargain goods on the Herestraat. Don't forget the children who made it
The Martinikerkhof is an oasis in green*

'We can be heroes just for one day'

However old I am. The more I understand, that I became a citizen, 'cause that's what I am

During the walkshop as a multiple choice identity. To pimp a butterfly and to feel free in my city.

Assignment: What is meant by the text? Write or draw that next to it.

NB Feel free to read sentences again in one place.

Are you now walking along to the Grote Markt? Now imagine that it is full of protestors. Who might they be and what would they be demonstrating against?



Do you feel the ground under your feet shaking and trembling and see the cracks in the ground? That's because of the earthquakes. Watch and listen to 'Ondergronds gedonder' (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4k2xS_Pu-o8) and 'Circle of the square' (<https://youtu.be/bHxmrQDBPhA>).

There are about 15 earthquake deaths a year!!! In memory, draw a cross with pavement chalk on a stone in the Grote Markt.

But there is more on the Grote Markt. It is also packed with demonstrators protesting against the great inequality between rich and poor, the energy and climate crisis, racism, discrimination and modern slavery ('Black Lives Matter'), Covid, the poor situation of young people, healthcare, education and agriculture

What a fuss! What would you like to demonstrate against? Like Greta Thunberg, come up with a slogan:

May I introduce you to the youngsters, 'the ghostwriters' of the novel. You will meet them regularly during the walk. Who do you most resemble?



Django: jihadist from London



Irina: aesthetic and empathic young woman from Rome



Monique: hedonist/narcissist girl from Amsterdam



CHillak: alternative youngster from Ljubljana



Thomas : neo-nazi from Berlin



Sandis: avatar and putinist from Riga



Iqbal: moslima from Damascus



Hakan: activist from Istanbul



Kristin: critical student from Oslo

Novel:

-'CHillak said, 'It would be nice if more young people joined us. The more souls, the more joy and freedom! There is talk of a disaster year. Here in the Grand Place, people met to demonstrate against everything wrong in education, healthcare, agriculture, migration, sexual orientation, the war in Ukraine, youth welfare, Corona, Black Lives Matter, arts and culture, climate change, not to mention earthquakes. They call it 'a perfect storm' because of the turbulence and strange combinations. ' Just look at the different slogans on the flags and signs.'

Over the loudspeaker, the announcement was made: 'Attention, attention, today is shortage day again'.

Monique corrected the speaker:

-'Sorry, but of course he means skirt day' (woordgrap uitleggen voor Engels publiek).

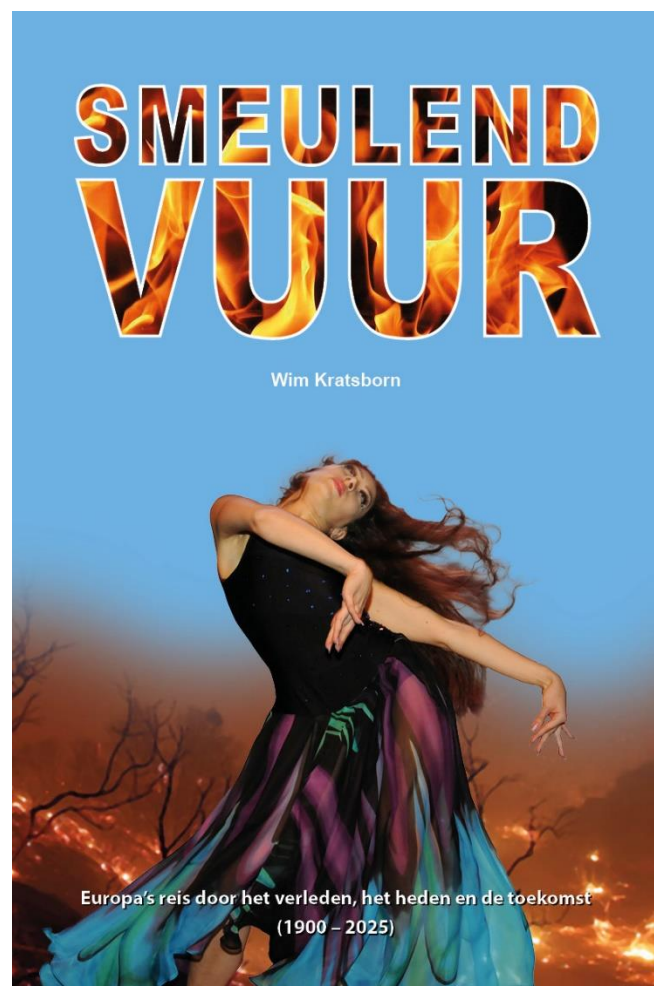
-'No Monique it is shortage day every day, because due to unsolved problems there are always and everywhere too few people to do the job. One exception is organised crime and the drug world.

Despite excuses and lies, the whole system is slowly but surely running aground.'

-'The show is over. Soon I will be pointed at for being short-changed,' Monique said indignantly

Assignment: Which deficit do you think is the worst? What are its causes, consequences and solutions?

| Deficits | Causes | Effects | Solutions |
|----------|--------|---------|-----------|
| | | | |



Novel:

Christine pointed to a tall pile in the middle of the Grote Markt.

-'There you see the accumulation of problems, such as those around energy, the climate, the housing market, healthcare and purchasing power. Most problems are hidden away and only the ones on top of the pile are visible. Despite countless warnings, nothing has been done, or too late. It was always said, people were working hard, but it was so complex. It made me despondent. From now on, I will call the Grote Markt the Stapelmarkt (woordgrap uitleggen voor Engels publiek).'

Through the speakers blared 'Twenty-five years and my life is still trying to get up that great big hill of hope for a destination. And I said hey hey hey hey hey hey what's going on'.

-'Don't panic this is not the Titanic! Said Irina. 'Because on the free market, things will work themselves out. Beware the 'Perfect Storm' though.'

-'A clusterfuck sounds more exciting' said Monique with a mischievous look.

We stood in a circle as a group, holding each other and yelling:

'Hey ho let's go'. 'Hey ho let's go'.

-'I had a problem myself, as there was also a shortage of doctors and nurses.

Nevertheless, the nurses had looked after me just fine when I had to undergo surgery for atrial fibrillation at the UMCG a short while ago. The nurses recognised me and waved at me. Yes, without them I would not be standing here now. And now they are demonstrating because they want to do their job properly. They don't want patients to have to sleep in bunk beds, two patients to share an oxygen mask or a doctor to have no time for patients. Please give them heart on my behalf!

-'How appropriate' said Monique wittily.

Hakan was pleasantly surprised when he saw the 'Black Lives Matter' group standing. They sang 'Don't think white, don't think black, but in the colour of your heart'.

-'That's right, because we matter too,' cried Hakan.

Christine stuck her finger in the air to contact the Greenpeace group.

-'Yoo-hoo,' she shouted. 'I belong to your club, because you stand up for nature.'

The activists waved their signs at Christine.

Iqbal was disappointed, as she could not find the refugee group. She bumped into someone lying on the ground. A skinny man looked at her dazedly and said : 'I am a refugee'

He handed her a piece of cardboard, on which was written with cock's feet.

'Don't treat me like a runaway dog and don't let me sleep on the ground.'

The refugee recounted:

-'I was living in an AZC, but it was closed because it was no longer needed. But so now it is again. Mistake thanks!'

CHillak got caught up in a dancing group, when a young woman grabbed her hand.

-'We just came from Amsterdam, where we participated in the Canal Parade of Pride. I want to be who I am and show it.'

CHillak spontaneously gave her a kiss.

Assignment :

What would you like to demonstrate against? What are the solutions? Write and/or draw that in the citizen on page 8.

And this can be done with words, behaviour, dreams, but also with music. For example, what is meant by: 'And I'll meet you there in the circle of the square. The square is over there, the circle is every where.'

Here are some musical tips:

'Problem, problem, the problem is you' by the Sex Pistols, 'Teachers leave these kids alone' by Pink Floyd, 'Nobody's gonna take us alive' by Muse or 'Killing in the name of' by Rage Against The Machine.

Use your mind, your feelings and your imagination. Go find more music on Spotify! Good luck!

Don't forget to bring your solutions to the Forum, as they will be shared with other visitors there.

Novel:

However, they were blocked by wappies, a conglomeration of people who lived in an alternate reality full of conspiracies. With clenched fists, they stood in front of the group, but Christine straightened her back and addressed them:

- 'You are dangerous lunatics who are off the track.'

The head wappie Willem Engerd stepped forward and said angrily:

- 'We are being treated like Jews in World War II. Just look at our Star of David.'

CHillak felt the adrenaline rush.

- 'How dare you compare yourselves to 6 million innocent murdered people?'

The wappies started booing loudly, banging pan lids against each other and left again. Bats flew screeching after them.



Make a demonstrating burger

The Vismarkt



A large banner hung above the entrance to the Vismarkt:

'Go to the Vismarkt in my city

For a healthy sandwich or a greasy bite?'

Novel:

There were people in a long queue in front of the food bank?

- 'Monique asked: 'Why are there no price tags with the products? I'm getting quite hungry for a burger or a BIG Mac.'

Assignment Walk past the stalls and end the taste confusion by dividing the food into healthy, unhealthy, dirty or tasty'.

| Product | Healthy | Unhealthy | Disgusting | Yummy |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Teken met stoepkrijt een gezond menu op de grond.

Novel:

Christine looked around:

-"When I see this market, it reminds me of the covid virus originally spread in a market." Spontaneously, she started singing:

'I heard the news to-day and oh boy about a virus in China, a global tragedy

The virus did spread like a wildfire and the flames got higher and higher

Oh shit, there was no survival kit

Covid-19 is a creep, a wierdo, what the hell is he's doing here?'

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-9-

- 'Look over there is a restaurant called 'Wereldburgers' (World citizens). That's a coincidence, because they sell what we want to become!'

She ran towards it and asked the boy behind the counter:

- 'Why are you called that? Do you really make World Citizens or is it a silly play on words?'

The young man replied:

- 'Yes, we make all kinds of burgers here and they come from everywhere. They're healthy too.'

Monique started laughing a little cynically:

' Hear it from someone else for a change.'

- 'Yes definitely said the young man, because we use only natural products that we get from the region. But we have other healthy things on offer. For instance, you can book a 'Table for Two' here.'

The boss lady behind the counter said:

- 'Our motto is 'Sport not only gives more life in your years, but more years in your life'. That applies to any sport, but here it is mainly about table tennis, served by Bettine Vrieskoop and Anne Vlieg.'

Through the back door, Bettine and Anne arrived and sat down with the group at a large table.

Anne began to say:

- "Sport appeals to millions of people and especially young people: A healthy mind in a healthy body is a must that should be started early."

- 'Just like with a Big Mac,' said Monique flippantly.

Anne continued imperturbably.

- "For example, in football recently, we saw how players of the Dutch national team used shirts to call attention to the poor working conditions in Qatar, and in American football Colin Kaepernick brought attention to the Black Lives Matters movement." - 'It's not just about the health of your body, it's about the health of your body.'

Bettine took the floor:

- 'The Football Makes History project emphasises inclusion, diversity and history in order to develop a more integrated vision of sport that connects with what is happening in culture and society.'

-10-

In basketball it is about urban culture and in budo/fighting sports like judo it is about respect.

Finally, I would like to point to the lhbti community in sport, because gay footballers, for example, are afraid to come out of the closet.'

Bettine took over:

- 'Pay attention, because table tennis is about individual responsibility and perception as a citizen. You can develop your own identity by dealing well with setbacks and unpredictable situations, but also by anticipating and reflecting. Table tennis and citizenship have a lot in common in terms of activity, flexibility and creativity. Learn to think in solutions, learn from your mistakes and don't let yourself be thrown off track. Further, take initiative and responsibility. Be alert, agile and resilient.... It's like a dance sometimes.'

- 'That's nice,' said Monique, because I'm a good dancer.'

- 'But also on a running buffet,' added CHillak.

Anne was eager and said:

- 'Table tennis is also like philosophy, because you have to think both after and ahead.' For instance, there are long heated discussions about the philosopher Kant and the Kantball named after him!'

Assingment:

Bettine asked:

- 'I can teach you the etiquette at the Table for Two during my workshop, where age does not matter. You can also join a club.

How do you look like a healthy and sporty citizen?



Make a healthy burger!

The Westerhaven

Unfortunately, the group ran out of time to order a global burger as there were more places to visit. It was a busy walking tour. For instance, at the Museum aan de A, there was an exhibition on slavery.



Museum aan de A



Westerhaven

Novel:

Christine was indignant.

-'They were ordinary people smugglers, but you still have them. Just look at the beautiful mansions in the city. To them, people were nothing more than products, from which you could make money. Slave trade was mainly an industrial process, aimed at making a profit.'

There was a boat in the Westerhaven and the group strolled towards it. There was no one in sight. CHillak stepped onto the boat via the gangplank.

-'This kind of boat was used for the slave trade, but thankfully that is a thing of the past now. At the Museum on the A, we saw examples of that.'

When CHillak carefully opened the hatch, she was startled. Beneath the deck were children, women and men packed closely together, looking at her anxiously. In a startled reaction, she threw the hatch hard.

- 'What the hell is this?' she cried. 'How terrible! You can't do this, can you?' -13-

Iqbal tried to calm her down.

- 'Calm down, because you have to realise that slavery still exists and is even increasing, as Christine said. In modern slavery, people also have to do very hard, dirty and unhealthy work and are hardly paid for it. This happens in horticulture, farming, cleaning, prostitution, construction and catering.

- 'But what on earth do these children have to do with that?' Asked CHillak emotionally.

- 'Children are also forced into work and even abused, like in prostitution.' Racism is a major flashpoint in the smouldering fire. Just think of the murder of George Floyd, the firestarter for the Black Lives Matter movement. Like wildfire, it spread around the world.

It could happen because it was actually already happening.'

Assingment: Ask questions about modern slavery to unsuspecting passers-by or people on the terrace.'

Go to Humanitas and Globe, where they try to help migrants. After all, it is not doom and gloom everywhere.

'Role-play 'I can't breathe' about the murder of George Floyd.

Maybe you could use 'Therefore I am' by Billie Eilish? Would you like to role-play it in the Forum later? It will certainly make an impression!

What does this wonderful phrase by Frank Boeijen mean?

'Don't think white don't think black, but in the colour of your heart'

What can you do yourself against modern slavery?

Make a rap and a drawing

Novel:

CHillak addressed the group:

- 'There is much past that is not yet history and the future is not what it used to be!'

Monique sighed:

- 'That'll do.'

- 'Sometimes time and distance play no role. That's why we go back in time, because in the disaster year of 1672, this was the place Bommen Berend bombed. Houses had collapsed, burnt or blackened. Incendiary bombs and red-hot bullets set the Zuiderdiep ablaze. There were buckets ready everywhere, but there was usually no extinguishing it. Fortunately, the bombing was limited to the Zuiderdiep, as the city and especially the students bravely stood their ground. Fortunately, it was 350 years ago and we can recount it. Another time we can go to the Groninger Museum to visit the exhibition 'The city stands its ground'.

The group first had to recover from the harsh confrontation with modern slavery and sat down on a terrace on the corner of Zuiderdiep. -14-



Make a slave-like burger!

-15-

The Zuiderdiep and Ukraine

The Zuiderdiep and Ukraine, full of war and violence'



Zuiderdiep in 1672



in 2022



Bommen Berend



Bommen Poetin



Charkov in 2022

Novel

Hakan had been silent for a while:

'It reminds me of the disaster year 1672, but also of the disaster year 2022 with the war in Ukraine. Now cities are being bombed by Russia, including schools and hospitals. Bombs Berend has become Bombs Putin. Let us dwell on war and violence.'

In the distance, they heard shouts and tumult and loud bangs of Cobra 10s. In panic, the group hid behind a car.

Monique said anxiously:

-'It looks like the bombs thrown by authoritarian Russia on democratic Ukraine? Or is my imagination running away with me now?'

***CHillak** responded in a trembling voice, hiding behind a car:*

-'No, because it's closer than you think.'

Everyone was silent, until Sandis responded furiously:

-'Serves you right. You are twisting the facts, because Putin is just putting things in order by changing the past for the future.'

-16-

He wants to rid Ukraine of fascists and neo-Nazis like the Azkov battalion.

Furthermore, he wants to stop the genocide in Donetsk and Luhansk. There's nothing wrong with that, is there?'

- 'There is everything wrong with that,' Christine said exasperated, 'because Ukraine does not want a troublemaker and war criminal who bombs schools and hospitals, has soldiers buried in handcuffs and executes civilians. Putin wants to kill democracy in Russia, in Ukraine and across Europe. He is going to mobilise 300,000 people. However, Putin has shot himself in his own foot, because Europe, Ukraine and NATO have never been so united against Russia. 'Too te te re te. '

CHillak got in front of the group.

- 'Putin is guilty of cross-border behaviour involving violence, executions, torture and rape. He belongs in prison and will be in the future. It evokes memories of Nuremberg, Auschwitz and Budapest for me.'

Meanwhile, the riots on the Zuiderdiep continued in full force. It became increasingly difficult to separate the present from the past, as shops and houses were blackened and some were even on fire.

Assignment:

Write a note to children sitting on the metro in Kiev without enough food and drink while bombs explode over their heads. At the end of letter we can invite them to come to To-Gatherland.'

Novel

They had not heard from Django for a long time, but now he blogged:

- 'Does the same apply to me, my wife and child? I am fighting 'a holy war' here against the infidels and for the caliphate. It is a big deal, that my wife and child are in a prison camp under deplorable conditions. But my wife and my child have done nothing wrong and have not participated in fighting and certainly not in executions and beheadings. Prove that.'

Hakan spoke up a little for Django:

- 'Fortunately, the Netherlands wants to bring her here, because after all, she is a Dutch citizen. She will then first be imprisoned and then tried. That way, she cannot disappear under the radar and can be reintegrated into society after years.'

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Django blogged: 'I have to get something off my chest about that Nexus conference in The Hague titled: 'The barbarians are coming'. Downright outrageous to put us down like that.

The Opera, however, was well guarded after the attack in the Bataclan, because otherwise we would certainly have launched an attack and then the title 'The barbarians are coming' would have been completely correct.'

Zigzagging, the group continued walking along the Zuiderdiep, taking cover behind cars. Thomas led the way, pointing to the large group of youths.

- 'Das sind meine Freunden und die kämpfen für unsere Freiheit'.

It began to look more and more like a battle and all sorts of things were thrown like fireworks, stones, pebbles and marbles. Cobras were flying around their ears. A police van was badly damaged, but fortunately the group was able to hide behind it. It was not safe, as a group of rioters tried with all their might to push the van over.

- 'We are back in time, because Bommen Berend also used fire bombs and red-hot marbles,' said Hakan. 'He would have felt in his element here!'

Shops were looted and the inventory thrown onto the street. The fire brigade and police could do nothing, as small well-armed groups kept attacking them with sticks and fireworks. The ME carried out charges, after which the rioters ran away but quickly counterattacked again.

It was so violent that I relived the battle at Passchendael. As by Gertrud at the time, attempts were made to bring injured people to safety.

Risking their lives, an ambulance arrived to pick up some wounded lying on the street, but they too were pelted and attacked.

CHillak turned red and said:

- 'That can't be! Are they completely out of God?'

Against my better judgment, I looked for Gertrud in the ambulance. What was going on here? Who were these young people? Was it a huddled bunch of bored, angry and aggressive youths? They were all young men, though, and their faces were covered by mouth caps or masks. Were they on a moral holiday, where values and norms no longer mattered. Did they want to use violence to prove themselves right? Just thinking about it made my head hurt.

One youngster shouted : "This is war! He was right about that!"

Thomas felt completely in his element and his eyes shot fire:

- 'Once football was war and now hooligans are joining the war! Stay near me, because then you will be safe from 'meine Freunde'.'

-18-

The group did not have much faith in that, but there was nothing else to do. So they walked as close to Thomas and made themselves as small as possible. CHillak tripped over stones and fell into a pit created by a Cobra 10. She fell to the ground and with great difficulty got back up.

They had to turn left into Herestraat. Fortunately, the road was clear as the rioters had been pushed back a bit by the ME.

They climbed onto an elevation, where CHillak spoke up:

-'Sorry, but this has everything to do with the far-right and organised crime, who murdered Derk Wiersum and Peter R. de Vries in broad daylight There is even a link to the 'War on Drugs'. Cocaine is bought for \$4 in Columbia and sold for \$50 in Amsterdam. Full containers are waiting in the port of Rotterdam for sneakers. Count your profits!'

Assignment

Where does all this anger come from? Why are things getting more and more out of control?

Novel:

CHillak's voice skipped:

-Do we allow young people to keep putting their short fuses into the smouldering fire? Most young people are virtuous, but the least of them are not like the populist and nationalist youths of the Scum for Democracy, radicalised PVV youths and professional rioters.'

She looked intently at the other group members.

-'It is clear that the government has lost direction and oversight. The government was often late in responding, but what can you as citizens do now? So what else can be done by the government, the police, the courts and education against this 'perfect storm'?''

-'Or clusterfuck,' Monique added chuckling.

-'How can young people be helped not to get into trouble and on the wrong path? Or not to be recruited by drug dealers?

What can you as citizens do to be free in your city? Make up a ruse, just like Olie B. Bommel!



Make your own burger!

The Herestraat

*'Spot cheap stuff on Herestraat
Don't forget the kids who made it'.*



Novel

The group had arrived in the Valhalla of capitalist society, the shopping street. There everything was on sale and sometimes virtually for nothing. Here everything seemed to be on sale and people had never heard of consumerism. Spotty products were also sold here. Think of a t-shirt for 7 euros, while making cotton requires a relatively large amount of water and all kinds of chemicals harmful to the environment, and people in the sweatshop, to process the cotton and give the fabric a colour.

Assignment

What products from around the world are in your own home? What are the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation? Where does your clothing/bag come from? Did you buy it new or is it second-hand? What was a copy? Incorporate your answer into your citizen on page 23.

Novel

Monique felt so at home, she walked a catwalk on Herestraat. She was as dazzling, attractive and glamorous as the shop windows, in which she was reflected. Passing young men turned their heads at her.

Monique was thoroughly enjoying all the attention.

When some young men hissed, Monique raised her middle finger and said half-singing:

-I'm sexy and I know it. And I'm free to show it'.

Monique sat down on the street despite her fancy outfit and leaned back in slow motion. She supported her entire weight on one hand and spun around like a top, while her legs made walking movements. Although there wasn't much space, the audience joined in enthusiastically, chanting 'Jackhammer! Jackhammer!'

People clapped along to the rhythm, encouraging Monique and dancing in sync. After several minutes, Monique slowly rose to her feet. Sweat gushed from her face. After catching her breath, she rapped:

'Hi, I'm Monique from Amsterdam and I'm funny/ Don't call me honey / give me your money / I'm always on the run / 'cause girls just wanna have fun'
The audience booed and gave her a standing ovation.

On the Herestraat, 'shiny happy people' walked around and for them luxury items were on sale at the Gentlemen of this time. That's why it was called Herestraat. There didn't seem to be any trouble, until Christine spoke up:

- 'That's pretty short of the mark, because this is about modern slavery. It is about the differences between rich and poor, between the Third World and the rich West, but also about sustainability and a humane way of making products. Would you even buy that €7 t-shirt?

Monique responded enthusiastically:

- 'I even bought a t-shirt for 4 euros at the Primark on Westerhaven.'

Christine responded dismayed:

- 'Monique, Monique! Remember the environmental and labour regulations in that country? Was it made in slavery? How high was the wage? Was it even safe? But that's not all. It's about sustainability and not about expensiveness, because shortages are often used as legitimisation for raising prices! And also about the sustainability of the products themselves. In a street interview, ask passers-by and staff what they think about this.

Hakan remained silent and asked:

- "Where is Irina?" she just stood looking at the windows of C&A. The answer was given by Irina herself, as she emerged from C&A singing. She was wearing men's clothes and said with her hands in the air:

- 'This is my coming-out'

The group reacted in surprise.

- 'Why have you never shared this with us?' asked Iqbal.

Irina replied with a smile on her pretty face:

*'May I be so free to be whoever I want to be
May I be so free to make love to whom I want
Don't bully me for some difference
And then when I am free, I want to share it with everyone
Not with a few, but with very many'*



Make your own burger!

The Martini Kerkhof **'The Green Deal'**

'The Martinikerkhof, an oasis in the green!'



Novel:

Christine tilted her head on the floor, leaned on her hands, spread her legs and spun around like a windmill. Honestly, I didn't think she was as nimble as Monique. The leaves on the trees danced with her like butterflies.

When the 'windmill' turned out, Christine sat down in the grass and rapped:

'Christine is critical, intelligent and empathetic

Stands up for Mother Earth before it's too late'.

How does it feel, how does it feel?

To finally make the Green Deal.'

She addressed the group:

-'We must stay below the ecological ceiling of no more than 2 degrees Celsius of global warming and above the social lower limit. What can you contribute to greening the city? It is about avoiding fossil resources, plastics and non-degradable materials. It is high time, because we need to do something about all those unquenchable forest fires, major floods like in Pakistan and severe droughts. Though we are way overdue, we need to talk about your contribution. Change and improve your lifestyle by eating less meat and more fruits and vegetables, as well as by exercising, cycling and walking more. Think about the table for two, for example!

Collect future foods like steak from a breeding reactor, robot-grown lettuce, watermelon steak tartare and insect burgers. Insects are desperately needed for biodiversity. So we can make nature healthy again. Everything from now on is about ecologically designing, restoring, renewing and revitalising natural processes. Young people of all countries unite!

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Or make this place a real graveyard, where Mother Earth is buried. It will probably attract many tourists, who will want to pay their respects to her. Fortunately, there is a

church nearby to commemorate and a terrace to reflect on what really wouldn't have been necessary. A poor consolation. '

Monique made dance moves on the lawn:

-'Learn to dance with the system and do it in the green. This is important for the city's climate resilience and the livability of its residents. In recent years of recession, many municipalities and other governments have cut back heavily on green spaces. Serves them right and is stupid.

Listen to 'The Green City' and draw or write your own green top five in your blog.'

*'Walk on the land, look at the sky and the clouds sigh
Why do the birds fly so fast? Always they come back here*

*Here on the land, life is good. Does nature still do what it should
But there in the city, life is not good.
Nature has long ceased to do what it should
The answer my friend is blowing in the wind. The answer is blowing in the wind*

*Stop wasting and polluting. Climate change is enough to make you cry
Torrential rains, hurricane tidal waves
Fuel the smouldering fire even more
Make a 'Green City' together Exhaust fumes and noise, we are fed up
Litter and rubbish must end,
Because clouds of fine dust aren't fine at all*

*In 'The Green City' life is good. Nature is doing its job again
Sustainability is quite good in the city in green surroundings
The answer my friend is blowing in the wind. The answer is blowing in the wind'.*

Assignment: How can you make yourself and the city greener? What is climate change? Give 3 examples. What is the Green Deal? What does your Green Deal look like? Write a rap about it.



Make your own green burger!

The Forum

Novel

The Forum was an important meeting place in To-Gatherland.

The audience was sitting on the steps waiting for what was to come, when suddenly a drone landed on the speakers' podium. In a robotic voice, it addressed them:

'Hello, may I introduce myself: I am AI and consist of data streams and algorithms, which can solve problems independently. And you can no longer live without me in this virtual and digitised world.'

Everyone listened breathlessly to the drone talk.

'Computers are slowly taking over everything and they are doing it better too. 'Reality is just another window'. And: 01110010 01101111 01101110 01100101 01110011 00100000 01110111 01101111 01110010 01101100 01110111 01101001 01100100 01100101 00100000 01110101 01101001 01101001 01110100 01100101.

It is not that most people are virtuous, but that the least people are not virtuous. They constantly sour the atmosphere, supported by a large group of followers and bystanders. There is a 'balloon economy'.

Monique responded enthusiastically: 'I know that, because then the balloon slowly deflates.' 'No Monique, it means that when you release the balloon, prices, costs, inflation and interest rates all fly into the air. The balloon won't come down again, because the least people will get screamingly rich!'

-'Oh yes, Toon Hermans once sang about the balloon dancing in the wind,' Monique said happily. The drone turned on its flashing lights and floated away.

Assignment:

-Share your solutions with other participants'. 'Will you go with me to the roof, because there are 'anachronistic circles' there that show you what happened in the past and what you can do about it in the future. You will colour your own butterfly there. 'It's up to you'.

Novel

The group got up and together we walked down the hall to the escalators, which took us to the roof. As I looked down, my fear of heights kicked in and all sorts of incoherent phrases came to mind:

'It's all about inspiration, empty pages in a book

You are changing colour, every time I look'

Finally, we ended up on the roof of the Forum. Anneke sang: 'Anachronistic circles in the sky. You may catch them if you try. Meet me at the demasqué and make my day' ('Anachrone cricles':https://youtu.be/Sh_X3Jjbs2w). This was my moment suprême. Although I was still in a cocoon, my rebirth or renaissance would not be long in

coming. The group sat in a semi-circle around me. Full of expectation, they looked at me. -27-

'When the four corners of this cocoon collide

You'll slip through the cracks hopin' that you'll survive

Gather your weight, take a deep look inside -27-

Are you really who they idolize?

'To pimp a butterfly,' Kendrick Lamar sang.

Gracefully, I started dancing and slowly transformed into a butterfly. I bent backwards with my wings stretched to the sides. This way, my wings were easy to see. Gracefully and in slow motion, I spun around. On the waves of the music, I felt smouldering fire 'running around my veins and became one with 'The music in me'. But slowly the music and Anneke's voice began to falter and my whole body shook. I tried to continue dancing, but I was completely stiffened. I also felt cramps in my lower abdomen, which I tried in vain to massage away with my hands. They were contractions that became more and more intense. All this violence caused my breathing to stop and I also started breathing faster and faster. Or maybe I was fibrillating again? I could not utter a word and only uttered incoherent sentences about WWI and WWII, which I had experienced as miscarriages. I had to cope with the contractions and drive out the pain. I rolled on the floor and balled my fists, hitting the ground hard with them. I fell into a trance as the contractions and the music intensified. The clothes fell off my body and to cover my nakedness, I folded the wings around me and sat wide-legged on a chair. Anneke sang: 'The green eyed lady of the Lowlands, sitting in a silver chai. She gave me some postcards, orange in her hair'. Under the sound of thunderous timpani beats, my rebirth took place. I had waited more than 500 years for this and Dante would be proud of me. It felt like a release from the smouldering fire. I looked down and watched countless coloured butterflies emerge from me, accompanied by heavenly singing. The multi-coloured butterflies flew through the air like confetti, scattering across the roof and the city.

Assignment:

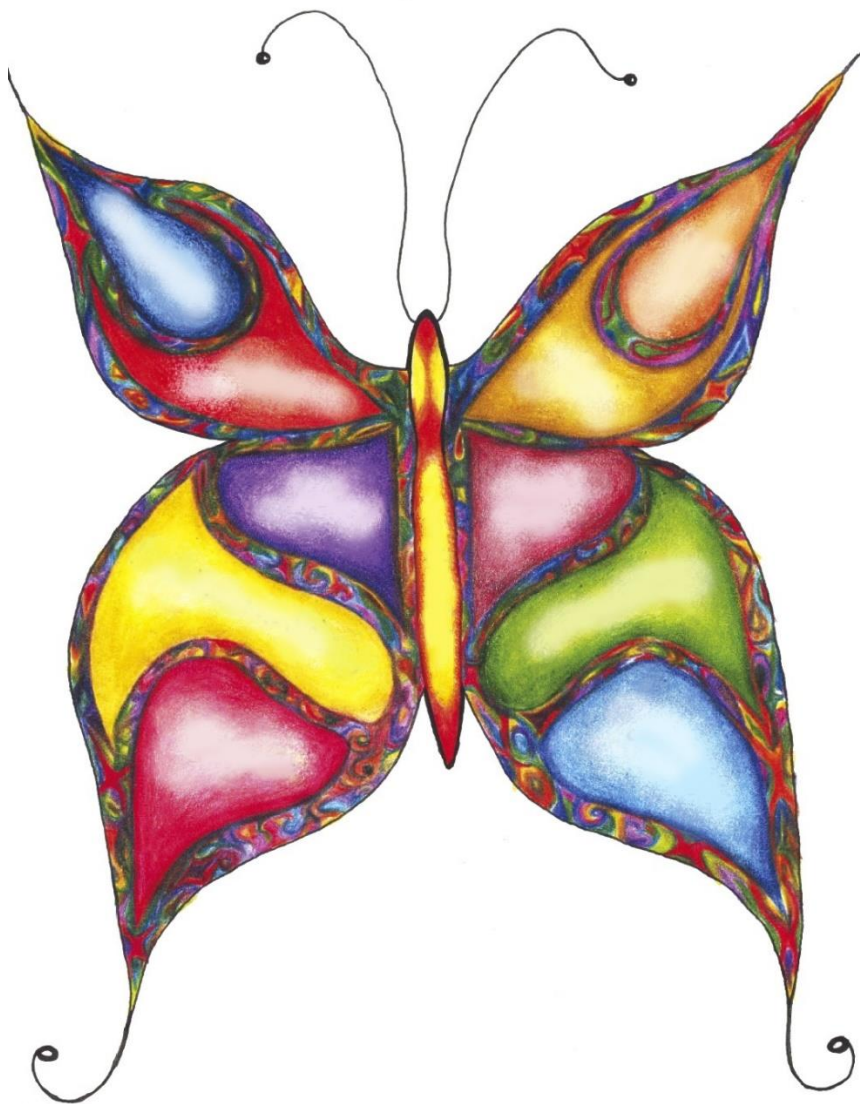
Do a multilogue together and depict your own rebirth by colouring the wings of the multicoloured butterfly with solutions. Look again at the 'citizens' you made earlier. What has changed in your 'multiple choice identity' in terms of knowledge, values, flexibility, diversity, creativity, empathy and activity? What does David Bowie's phrase 'We can be heroes just for one day' mean to you? Which of you could and/or would like to do the butterfly dance?

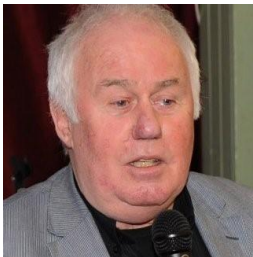
Novel

With tears in my eyes, I addressed the group:

*- "It's nice to be here. I'm happier than ever.
Happiness is a butterfly. I just wanna dance with you'
As they did the wave, they sang:
'In this view. I see all the colours in you. I see all the colours in you
Multicolor, Multicolor, Multicolor (Son Mieux)*

-28-





Wim Kratsborn (1950-) studied a doctoral degree in history at the University of Groningen. From 1971 to 2012, he worked as a history and social studies teacher at Hanzehogeschool Groningen. Since the 1980s, he participated in European educational networks such as ETEN, CiCE and EUROCLIO. In 2006, he became project leader of the innovative educational and international citizenship project To-Gather with 9 European countries, Syria and Lebanon. After retiring 2012, he continued with To-Gather as a writer, film director, painter, sculptor, educational designer, composer and musician

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‘In the year 2025, To-Gather is still alive’

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To-Gatherland, 20-9-2022

Passenger in time (Wim Kratsborn, 2009)

*Want to understand what I don't know
Shouldn't stay at home, I really need to go
Anachronistic circles are in the sky
And I may catch them if I try*

*So I went to Athens to see the god Poseidon
Discover Europe like Columbus in Lisbon
Talk in Ljubljana in Philosopher's Cafe
Look down in Riga at the statue of Liberté*

***Passengers in time searching the unknown
Passengers in space, over there is my home
My feet are on the ground, stand up to violence
Can't you hear the sound the sound of silence***

*Singing together near the mosque in blue
Istanbul is made for me and you
Listen to the stories that have been told
Walk in Damascus on a never ending road
Meeting the other and there's nothing to hide
Never leave the land that lives inside*

***Passengers in time searching the unknown
Passengers in space over there is my home
My feet are on the ground stand up to violence
Can't you hear the sound, the sound ofsilence***



Margarita Kamjaka is dancing the butterfly!