

The Liberal Arts Program presents

# Liberal Arts Speaker Series

## "Boiling Problems: Securitizing Energy and Food"

**Dr. Jacob Hubertus de Wilde**

**28 Nov 2011**

**4:00-5:30 pm**

**LH 238**

**ABSTRACT INFO:** Traditionally, International Security Studies (ISS) has been dominated with concerns about military security: How to avoid wars you cannot win? How to secure vital national interests? Since the first reports by the Club of Rome in the 1970s, gradually other existential concerns have occupied a place on international security agendas. Environmental security captured a wide range of issue areas: the consequences of climate change, the impact of natural and industrial hazards, scarcities of renewable and non-renewable resources, etcetera. The agenda appeared too big to manage as a whole. In the 1990s separate security discourses have emerged about climate change, health security, food security, energy security, bio-diversity, forced migration – in short risks of humanitarian crises.

In this presentation the framework for analysis as developed by the Copenhagen School in ISS will be used to discuss the fluctuations in the general environmental security discourse. Special focus will be on two pressing issues: food security and energy security. How and why does securitization of these issues occur? Where are the causes of the problems located, according to leading reports? What are the strategies for de-securitization: meeting the threats, controlling the risks? And what are the societal consequences of moving food and energy issues into the realm of security politics? The original connotations with the military dimension of security still exists. How do they link up with concerns about food and energy?

**BIO:** Dr. Jaap de Wilde is a professor of IR and World Politics and Head of the department of International Relations & International Organization at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He is also the vice chair of the board of governors of Globalisation Studies Groningen (GSG). Professor De Wilde's key research focus is on the causes of international conflicts with a special focus on the shift in conflict studies from national security to human security. In the past he held positions at Vrije Universiteit and University of Twente. He has also worked at the Copenhagen Peace Research Institute as a senior research fellow. He is currently working on aspects of energy security supply policies. Dr. De Wilde is a much sought after speaker nationally and internationally and has extensively published his work in both English and Dutch. He is the co-author of *Security: A New Framework for Analysis* (London, Boulder: Lynne Rienner) and co-editor of *The Viability of Human Security*, (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press).



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