

To the president of KNAW and the directorate of CPB

Concerning: CPB study "Kansrijk Onderwijsbeleid" June 2016 / Misstate in mathematics education research 2008+ / Censorship of science 1990+ by directorate of CPB (25 years) / Role of KNAW / Letters to NRO and VOR and institutes for Teacher Education
<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-04-15-Letter-to-NRO.pdf>
<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-05-09-Letter-to-VOR-and-Trainers-of-teachers.pdf>

May 17 2016

Dear prof. Van Dijck, dra. Van Geest, prof. Ter Weel and prof. Kool,
Beste Laura, Bas en Clemens,

There is reason to address this letter to both KNAW and CPB. Both of you are **structurally disinformed** by the community of research mathematics (RM), mathematics education (ME) and mathematics education research (MER). Let me denote this as the **RM-ME-MER** community, though there is also influence by (cognitive) psychologists, psychometricians and general education researchers (so-called "MER"). My position as teacher of mathematics and an advisor on MER is severely handicapped by an overall **misstate in mathematics education research (MER)**, at least in my own empirical observation since 2008. ¹

CPB is planning a publication **Kansrijk onderwijsbeleid** on June 10 2016 by the department of Karen van der Wiel (Literatuurplein.nl, ISBN 978-90-5833-730-6). A workshop in December 2015 indicated a.o. the **importance of mathematics education**. Perhaps the book is already in print but let me still repeat my earlier suggestion to CPB that it would be important that CPB looks into the option to create a **Simon Stevin Institute (SSI)** for mathematics education (ME) and its research (MER). This idea comes from institutional economics, see my **letter to VOR and institutes for Teacher Education**, below under Evidence 1. ²

CPB is independent, and my referral to SSI might cause CPB to wish to avoid the impression of influence and then make no mention of SSI. However, the suggestion of SSI is important, and if CPB disagrees then let CPB please state why, and allow readers of *Kansrijk Onderwijsbeleid* to check the argument in my book **Elegance with Substance** (2009, 2015).

Others might have informed KNAW and CPB on SSI, but failed to do so, and there have been breaches of research integrity. KNAW might support the creation of SSI, but is dysfunctional w.r.t. MER. A key reason lies with the **mathematics section at KNAW**, though sections on educational sciences and economics are relevant too. The mathematics section at KNAW is

¹ Phrases can be in bold e.g. where a html-version may include internet links.

² It is welcome that Ter Weel has written on education and economics before, e.g. was a co-author of a remarkable study on the historical impact of Geert Groote (1340-1384), with the key institutional aspect that factories with manual copyists (monks) helped create a market that later was taken over by the printing press. The reference to the 14th century may strike one as odd, but Marcel Kurpershoek in NRC Handelsblad May 14 2016 O&D8-9 refers to Ibn Taymiyyah (1263-1328) in relation to modern Wahhabism, Salafism and Jihadism, and if I am right on history then the Middle East didn't develop widespread education and the printing press. The keywords are "education" and "institution" and "open mind" and "innovation".

qualified for research mathematics (RM) but they meddle in MER that they are **not qualified** for, see Evidence 3 below. Below I will discuss the **KNAW 2009 report** on arithmetic education, see Evidence 4 below.

The ALLEA / KNAW / LOWI **code of conduct on research integrity** in general:

- only applies for RM when they would fabricate, manipulate and/or plagiarize in their own field of RM,
- doesn't cover the cases when they meddle in other fields, like MER, while abusing their authority in RM.

Lobbying at Parliament w.r.t. policy on ME and MER might legally only be that, but one fears that members of Parliament still regard them as professors (which again is up to politics ?).

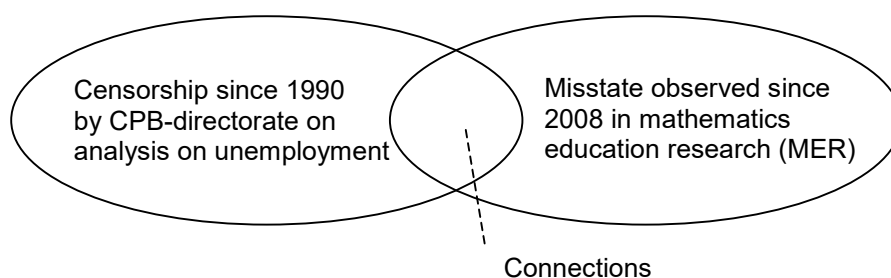
In November 2015 I asked former KNAW and ALLEA president prof. **Pieter Drenth** why ALLEA / KNAW / LOWI have such a narrow definition of research integrity and why they didn't embrace **Forum Theory** by A.D. de Groot. In his reply Drenth included an **ad hominem**, see Evidence 8 below. This is not only flabbergasting but also presents a conundrum how to deal with this. My suggestion is to treat it as a conceptual and practical **connection**.

Originally I wanted to focus this letter on education. There seemed to be no need to mention the other issue on censorship since 1990+ by the CPB-directorate that you already know about. Thus it was an option to insert such **connections** as sub-items w.r.t. education. However, both the two (main) issues and their connections better be identified as they are, in order that there is clarity and no confusion.

There are **two issues** in which KNAW and CPB are involved for which I explicitly advise an enquiry by Parliament. I presume that KNAW and CPB will want to provide Parliament with adequate information, even when Parliament doesn't explicitly ask that information: for Parliament may only know that it is interested once Parliament has that information.

- http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/PE_werk_CPB
- <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/tk-onderzoek-wiskundeonderwijs>

It is useful to keep these two issues separate as much as possible, but, it appears that there are some connections, that not only require attention, but that might also be pivotal in both issues themselves. Apparently English has no good word for Dutch "misstand" ("a wrong", "abuse"), and thus I use "misstate".



Connections between these two issues are, and let me also mention the union:

- The ALLEA / KNAW / LOWI code of conduct on research integrity is too narrow. <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/26/allea-defines-research-integrity-too-narrow>
- Related to this, but also with some own elements: There is not only censorship of science since 1990 by the directorate of CPB w.r.t. my analysis on unemployment and poverty, but there is also failure by KNAW to correct this since 1992, and there is further failure by KNAW w.r.t. the RM-ME-MER case. Independent factors create the code, not the other way around.

- An education policy to increase employment prospects for low productivity workers may be frustrated by factors that remain obscured due to the 1990+ censorship of science by the CPB-directorate. Studies by education economists on rates of return on education are invalid when not properly accounting for this.
- As teacher of mathematics and mathematics education researcher: my work and person meet with maltreatment also because of the 1990+ censorship. Some discussants **explicitly use this censorship situation for an ad hominem argument**, and for others **it might be cause for neglect** though such impact is rather impossible to prove.
- Conversely, as econometrician and former CPB-researcher, also w.r.t. the protest against that censorship since 1990: would I have had proper treatment in the **RM-ME-MER** community, then the success in MER would have caused people to wonder about that censorship by the CPB-directorate. This development now is being blocked. The CPB-directorate is not qualified for MER and cannot quite judge on this, but dysfunctional KNAW is creating confusion on this.
- This means that Parliament will be disinformed about these connections.
- The Dutch economy and educational system cannot benefit from results from my work in both fields when bottlenecks arise, e.g. from such connections.

A leading question to understand this letter thus is (but see the detail points in the conclusion): Perhaps the CPB-directorate can adopt some policy to protect former employees from abuse related to former CPB-work, and inform those involved, including at KNAW and Pieter Drenth, to respect science and stop the ad hominems and answer questions ?

Probably one needs to look at these issues first from the angle of the two topics on content, and only subsequently from the angle of Forum Theory and then also with such connections. Let me first present evidence so that you can see the problems and then suggest a solution approach.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Evidence 1: Letter of 2016-05-09 to "Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research" (VOR) and Dutch institutes for Teacher Education | 3 |
| (2) Evidence 2: Potential eye-opener on the teaching of the quadratic function (minimum loss, maximum profit) | 4 |
| (3) Evidence 3: KNAW mathematics section | 4 |
| (4) Evidence 4: KNAW 2009 report on arithmetic education | 4 |
| (5) Evidence 5: Deltaplan Wiskunde | 9 |
| (6) Evidence 6: Parliament's investigation of the "rekentoets" on June 8 2016..... | 9 |
| (7) Evidence 7: Censorship and abuse of power in 1990+ by the CPB-directorate..... | 10 |
| (8) Evidence 8: ALLEA / KNAW / LOWI fail too | 25 |
| (9) Conclusion | 27 |
| Appendix. Email exchange with J.K. Lenstra w.r.t. KNAW 2009..... | 29 |
| Date: Sat, 20 Jun 2009..... | 29 |
| Date: 2009-06-20..... | 29 |
| Date: Sun, 21 Jun 2009..... | 30 |
| Date: July 8 & 11 2014 | 30 |
| Date: Sat, 19 Jul 2014 | 30 |
| Date: Tue, July 22 2014 | 30 |

(1) Evidence 1: Letter of 2016-05-09 to "Vereniging voor Onderwijs Research" (VOR) and Dutch institutes for Teacher Education

The following link gives my letter to the Dutch association for education research (VOR) and institutes for Teacher Education. It may be a good exercise for the reader to draw a diagram and mark the blockages in the flow of information. KNAW and CPB will feature strongly as bottlenecks, whence it is a sensible thought to write this present letter to KNAW and CPB.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-05-09-Letter-to-VOR-and-Trainers-of-teachers.pdf>

This was my earlier letter to NWO / NRO / PROO:

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-04-15-Letter-to-NRO.pdf>

The discussion on education (-economics) can be shorter in this present letter because more has been explained in these other two letters. The information is part of this letter though.

(2) Evidence 2: Potential eye-opener on the teaching of the quadratic function (minimum loss, maximum profit)

The paradigm shift in MER is illustrated by the didactics of the quadratic function.

The newsletter of Dutch teachers of mathematics: <http://www.wiskundebrief.nl/738.htm#5>

The discussion in English gives details:

- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/04/24/teaching-quadratic-functions-re-engineered>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/05/01/a-long-road-with-a-recipe>

(3) Evidence 3: KNAW mathematics section

Henk Broer is chairman and Jan Bergstra is secretary of the present KNAW mathematics section.

https://www.knaw.nl/nl/adviezen/adviesraden-en-adviescommissies/organisaties/287/akademiaorganisation_membersview

Supposedly their main focus is on research mathematics (RM) but apparently occasionally they also discuss MER or even have a conference on MER, like on June 30 2014. On occasion they make the category mistake of confusing **mathematics (abstraction)** with **MER (empirics)**. In the past I already informed KNAW of a collective breach in integrity and also that its own section was disfunctional.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2014-07-08-Colignatus-aan-KNAW-LOWI.html>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/26/allea-defines-research-integrity-too-narrow>

I haven't seen improvement. I cannot look into each individual's breach for there are too many (it is structural) and I better concentrate on what might be pivotal. Bergstra had a pivotal role and I provided him with documentation, but he rejected by diagnosis and even refused to discuss my analysis with an officer on integrity of science. Thus, this is the documentation w.r.t. Bergstra, anonymised as far as relevant.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/JB/Index.html>

(4) Evidence 4: KNAW 2009 report on arithmetic education

(A) This KNAW 2009 report deals with arithmetic education basically in primary education. A summary by KNAW of the KNAW 2009 report is in "Akademie Nieuws".

- <https://www.knaw.nl/shared/resources/actueel/publicaties/pdf/advies-rekenonderwijs-op-de-basisschool>
- https://www.knaw.nl/shared/resources/actueel/Akademienieuws/pdf/AN110_Rekenonderwijs.pdf

As teacher of mathematics I am not qualified to judge on primary education, and thus my observations have only limited value. However, some small criticism is relevant to mention, especially when it destroys major conclusions of the report.

Jan Karel Lenstra was chairman of the committee who wrote that report. In 2008 I had already presented my analysis in Dutch, with the conclusion that Parliament was advised to investigate ME and MER. In 2009 I published *Elegance with Substance* (EWS) (in 2015 a 2nd edition). I informed Lenstra about this, but he advised waiting for his report, after which we could talk "when desired". I duly waited and when I presented my criticism w.r.t. the report, he declined to answer.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Artikelen/2008-04-17-WiskundeOnderwijs.pdf> (see EWS for edited analysis on details of issues)
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/Index.html>
- The **Appendix** contains an email exchange between me and Lenstra (he cc's to **Korbijn**).

(B) The KNAW report should rely on mathematics education research (MER). The input from MER was rather limited however, and apparently the committee lacked qualification to judge on MER. For example, observe that mathematician **Jan Karel Lenstra** has no qualification for ME or MER and should not have been appointed as chairman of this committee.

Arie Korbijn (at KNAW) writes at: <http://oai.cwi.nl/oai/asset/19551/19551D.pdf>.

"Zoals je altijd hebt volgehouden had je geen enkel verstand van rekenonderwijs, en dat gold voor mij zeker net zo sterk. Twee voetballers in een team die allebei niet weten wat buitenspel is, moest dat nou geen sterrenteam worden?"

This issue is not only "not having knowledge". KNAW & Korbijn should have seen that, while Lenstra is a mathematician, he has no background in MER, which is an empirical science. Thus there is also the issue of **attitude and competence for empirical observation**.

Korbijn is an engineer, and supposedly more sensitive to empirics, but we are in need of an explanation how "empiricist" Korbijn can embark on a study without proper background himself and without apparently properly checking Lenstra's qualifications.

(C) For this letter there thus is a caveat on **Arie Korbijn**, as current executive secretary of the Council for Technical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Informatics, Physics and Astronomy and Chemistry of the KNAW.

Korbijn is secretary of above council since 2007, potentially checking on his own qualifications to participate as secretary of this KNAW 2009 committee on arithmetic education.

When KNAW discusses this letter internally, Korbijn might be involved because he is at said KNAW council. Let me refer to the notion of a "hostile witness". I don't know what to think about Korbijn at KNAW. I infer an incompetence w.r.t. MER, and expect that he would not be impartial to this present letter. But my impressions are tentative, and I might be wrong. Korbijn's role of "executive secretary" or "committee secretary" should not be confused with that of an author or committee chairman. A secretary might have various degrees of influence and responsibility. Outsiders can hardly judge this when there are few public statements by the secretary himself.

(D) Subsequently, Lenstra and his commission and secretarial staff Korbijn indeed showed that they were unable to spot the **empirical errors** that they put into their report. Education in arithmetic still suffers the consequences, with an unethical experiment on children. It is a breach of research integrity by Lenstra to refuse to reply to criticism.

- <http://www.wiskundebrief.nl/721.htm#5>
- See p3: <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2016-04-10-kern-misstanden.pdf>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2014-07-22-Aan-KNAW-LOWI-tav-Jan-Karel-Lenstra.html>

(E) Lenstra and his commission and secretarial staff Korbijn concluded that "realistic mathematics education" (RME) by Freudenthal and Freudenthal Institute had been introduced in Dutch education **without correct research and empirical evidence**. Obviously, when

Lenstra has no background in empirics then he cannot really check on the empirical status of RME. But in this case I agree.

- A scientist concludes that **RME thus is an ideology**, comparable to astrology or homeopathy.
- Freudenthal Institute should not be at an university.³

However, these latter two conclusions aren't in the report. Freudenthal Institute still is at Utrecht University. Sectarians of RME still lobby for its ideology and poison scientific discussion by disinformation and manipulation. See the letters to VOR and NRO for more details.

(F) One error supports the other error, and creates an illusion of reason. Lenstra and his commission and secretarial staff Korbijn argued that RME was "as effective" as "traditional mathematics education" (TME). *Thus when ideology RME is as effective as TME then perhaps it isn't an ideology ?* But check the empirical errors in above document 2016-04-10 (p3) that this criterion of "effectiveness" is deficient, and check the observation on the unethical experiment on children.

(G) In the past, I took it as sufficient to point to deficiency of Lenstra w.r.t. MER (see my letter to VOR and others, or the letter to KNAW / LOWI of July 8 & 11 2014). For this present letter, let me say a bit more about all members of the committee that wrote the KNAW 2009 report.

Science decides on **content**, the Dutch polder model looks for **pacification**. See above Akademie Nieuws that the committee intended to be a judge in the math war on arithmetic education.

"De commissie-Lenstra moest vorig jaar het pleit beslechten tussen twee kampen in het rekenonderwijs." (Scienc reporter Bennie Mols, Akademie Nieuws July 2011, p3)

Discussing this math war in Holland, Raf Feys en Pieter van Biervliet (2008) sketch:

"Als reactie op de kritiek op het FI stellen de Freudenthalers zich eerder defensief op. Ze pakken niet langer uit met de vele zegeningen van hun realistische aanpak, maar de kritiek wordt geridiculiseerd en/of afgewezen (...). In het redactioneel van 'Volgens Bartjens' van januari 2008 fulmineerde ook hoofdredactrice Marjolein Kool tegen de critici, maar ze gaf wel toe dat er veel te weinig aandacht is voor inoefenen en parate kennis. Zonder voldoende parate kennis kan een leerling ook moeilijk nieuwe inzichten verwerven en problemen oplossen." (p4, first column, <http://www.onderwijskrant.be/kranten/ok146.pdf>)

With **non-MER** Lenstra as chairman, the report is an effort at KNAW at pacification of the math war in Holland on arithmetic education, rather than an effort for designing the discerning experiment that would settle the issue on content. (a) Members Kool and Noteboom likely represent the "realistic mathematics education" (RME) ideology (no science). (b) Bijl, Lenstra and Tijdeman represent the more traditional mathematicians at university (RM and not MER). (c) Psychometrician Van Putten and education researcher Verschaffel provide cognitive models and empirical data from past research to allow this pacification between these sides.

(H) As far as I can determine, Van Putten and Verschaffel did not study didactics of mathematics, though they did research that touch on MER. This is a bit more complicated to determine, also because of the math war confusions. Verschaffel showed interest in MER but a major contact for him was Freudenthal Institute, and their ideology instead of MER might have wrong-footed him. Again, see my letter to VOR and others. Neither Van Putten nor Verschaffel have responded to questions of mine.

³ Interestingly, when the precursor of Freudenthal Institute IOWO was cut down, with 40 co-workers losing their jobs, these people dispersed over Holland, and started to preach the gospel of "realistic mathematics education" (RME), <http://www.aob.nl/default.aspx?id=272&article=3328&q=&m=>

Marian Hickendorff was Ph.D. student of Van Putten in 2009, and assistant for the KNAW 2009 committee. Her thesis partly on the subject of 2011 was awarded with cum laude. In 2014 Hickendorff answered one question of mine, stating that she keeps at distance from didactics of mathematics, which means that she doesn't really study what she claims to study. The term algebra doesn't occur in Hickendorff's thesis, while it is relevant for her topic.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2016-02-10-Basisprobleem-in-pedagogie-onderwijs-en-didactiek-van-wiskunde.pdf>
- See p11 here: <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2016-01-31-Enkele-emails-rekentoets-psychometrie.pdf>

If Van Putten had studied MER he likely would have alerted his Ph.D. student Hickendorff about doing so too. It appears that Lieven Verschaffel is also in the Ph.D. committee, that awarded Hickendorff's thesis in psychometrics with a cum laude. If Verschaffel had been aware of the importance of MER, he might have asked the same.

(I) I have been puzzled for a while by the question what to think about Verschaffel's scientific qualification. As said, I have no qualification for primary education, and Verschaffel's work is much in that area. In this interesting lecture (2013) he explicitly had been invited for mathematics education: <http://didaktik-der-mathematik.de/pdf/gdm-mitteilungen-94.pdf> Thus, while Verschaffel allows that the KNAW 2009 report contains these two fundamental errors (adding detail one can count three), this would not be lack of qualification but only blindness or incompetence at the execution ?

For me, the coin dropped when I noted Verschaffel repeating the conclusion on the importance of the teacher on "pedagogical content knowledge" (PCK). This conclusion on PCK is fairly okay, but the problem posed by KNAW 2009 was the clash between RME and TME, and the solution of this requires knowledge of MER. Thus, indeed, Verschaffel is true to his background in "education studies" (apart from the KNAW objective at pacification).

- When mathematics education is discussed then he has a probably somewhat vaguer idea than in applied mathematics of what the mathematics content is. He tends to accept this content uncritically (he might ask mathematicians), and his focus remains on ways of education. Verschaffel regards Hans Freudenthal (1905-1990) as part of MER but lacks the qualification to diagnose that Freudenthal is a RM who invents so-called "MER".
- This differs from MER, that first spends time to define the mathematical content (from micro topic to whole curriculum), and then wonders whether it can be taught and if so how, by means of empirical research (evidence based education). MER will also approach students as unbiased as possible and try to determine what they could master starting from their position, yet, MER will have in mind what mathematics would be useful to teach (perhaps a bias), and take this as the yardstick.

For example, a mathematics teacher might ask a student to prove the Pythagorean Theorem, and the student may reply that he or she uses the Euclidean definition of distance, whence the PT is true by definition. Verschaffel might be lost. In MER, the design is such that the teacher has the flexibility then to ask for something else to prove, like the triangle inequality, since the objective of the lesson is to look at proving theorems and develop the notion of proof (and not just to prove the PT, which is nice to know but derives its value from that it can be proven or taken as definition). This approach of MER starts with mathematics in mind, and thus can also be critical of what is called "mathematics" but is not really so (e.g. school mathematics).

Hence, Verschaffel would have been a welcome addition to this KNAW committee had there been others who were qualified for MER, but he cannot make up for their absence. This diagnosis can be confirmed by another piece of evidence provided by Ben Wilbrink (important again) who refers to Verschaffel's lecture in 1996 at the (re-) opening of Freudenthal Institute as the "Expertisecentrum reken-wiskunde-onderwijs":

<http://www.fi.uu.nl/publicaties/literatuur/6911.pdf>

<http://benwilbrink.nl/projecten/wetenschapsopvatting.htm>

Verschaffel: "Ik ben er fier op dat ik ook reeds 'in tempore non suspectu' - dat wil zeggen voor het Freudenthal instituut nationaal en internationaal als expertisecentrum werd erkend - mijn waardering voor het werk van het Freudenthal instituut nooit onder stoelen of banken heb gestoken.

Anderzijds heb ik natuurlijk ook bepaalde onvolkomenheden vastgesteld in en bepaalde vragen gesteld bij het werk dat hier de voorbije jaren heeft plaatsgevonden." (1996, p44, left column)

Wilbrink: "Dit is een tijdsdocument. Het zou mij verbazen wanneer Verschaffel nu, vijftien jaar later, nog steeds zo'n feestrede voor het Freudenthal-Instituut zou willen afsteken, met alleen op het eind enkele voorzichtige vraagtekens bij theorie en onderzoek van het FI." (undated comment)

KNAW 2009, also written by Verschaffel, was critical about the introduction of RME.

(J) For completeness, the committee was, with some links that I could find:

- Hester Bijl: MSc mathematics, MA English, Ph.D. computational fluid dynamics, TU Delft, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hester-bijl-4497a44>
- Marjolein Kool: ideologue, 2nd degree teacher of mathematics, MA Dutch, Ph.D. on Dutch texts of 15th and 16th century on arithmetic, 1992-2011 PABO Hogeschool Domstad, 1999-2009 chief editor of "Volgens Bartjens", some periods at Freudenthal Institute, now Lectoraat "Gecijferdheid" (a term from RME ideology), limited research on actual didactics, and indeed only one reference in the report itself (p92), <http://www.onderzoek.hu.nl/onderzoekers/marjolein-kool> https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marjolein_Kool/publications <http://benwilbrink.nl/projecten/matheducation.dutch.htm>
- Jan Karel Lenstra: research mathematician, CWI & TUE, <https://www.cwi.nl/people/275>
- Anneke Noteboom: ideologue, in 1997-2001 involved in the Freudenthal Institute TAL project, SLO, apparently no cv or list of publications on the internet, <http://rekenenwiskunde.slo.nl/onze-experts/anneke-noteboom> <https://www.sensepublishers.com/media/161-children-learn-mathematics.pdf>
- Kees van Putten: psychologist, Leiden, <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/1/kees-van-putten>
- Rob Tijdeman: research mathematician, Leiden, <http://www.math.leidenuniv.nl/~tijdeman>
- Lieven Verschaffel: education research, also with interest in "early math", Leuven, <https://perswww.kuleuven.be/~u0004575/CV.htm>
- with assistance provided by Marian Hickendorff, then Ph. D. student in psychometrics, <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/staffmembers/marian-hickendorff>
- and secretary was ir. **Arie Korbijn** at KNAW <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arie-korbijn-8703903>

At BON "mark79" <http://www.beteronderwijsnederland.nl/content/knaw-commissie-rekenen>

"Nu ben ik de ledenlijst van de commissie en de ledenlijst van de KNAW langsgedaan.

Hester Bijl is lid van de jonge akademie.

Marjolein Kool is geen lid van de KNAW.

Jan Karel Lenstra is geen lid van de KNAW (zijn broer is dat wel en Jan Karel zit wel al in een andere KNAW raad al is hij geen lid van de KNAW).

Anneke Noteboom is geen lid van de KNAW.

Kees van Putten is geen lid van de KNAW.

Rob Tijdeman is rustend lid van de KNAW.

Lieven Verschaffel is geen lid van de KNAW.

Van de 7 is er dus 1 rustend lid, 1 jong lid en 1 is weliswaar geen lid maar zou je kunnen zeggen komt wel uit de eigen gelederen van de KNAW. En die 3 zijn de 3

wiskundigen. De 4 niet-wiskundigen (Kool, Noteboom, Van Putten, Verschaffel) hebben lijkt het geen eerdere connectie met de KNAW."

(K) Given the lack of qualification and the resulting errors, KNAW should retract this report. It better remain on the website for historical reference, but the PDF should be marked as withdrawn. To judge on the retraction, it suffices to observe that no author has a background in MER. One might be distracted by a superficial glance, but then look closer. It will be somewhat a pity that Retraction Watch might not worry about such a report in Dutch.

<http://retractionwatch.com>

(L) Korbijn at KNAW is now in the position not only that he must explain these errors in the report but also that there has been **no response** by KNAW or Lenstra cs. to criticism on this since at least 2014 when I reported on the collective breach on integrity.

Korbijn should give a public explanation. Till I have been able to judge on this I can no longer give Korbijn the benefit of the doubt. I hope you agree or present evidence to the contrary. My request to KNAW is that you focus, without interference by him, on stopping this experiment on children by a discerning test. My other request is that you focus also on the structural solution by means of the creation of SSI.

(5) Evidence 5: Deltaplan Wiskunde

There is the "Platform Wiskunde Nederland" (PWN). This is a non-scientific lobbying group. They collaborated with NWO and presented a "Deltaplan Wiskunde" to the minister of Education. Hopefully KNAW and CPB are able to check and warn the minister.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2016-03-22-Minister-krijgt-een-misleidend-Deltaplan-Wiskunde.pdf>

(6) Evidence 6: Parliament's investigation of the "rekentoets" on June 8 2016

On June 8 2016, Dutch Parliament will discuss the "rekentoets" level 3F of 2015, i.e. the test on "fundamental" competence in arithmetic in highschool. The test itself was introduced by politics in 2010 without proper checking in the ME-MER community. The committee that developed the test also mentioned a target level 3S above 3F ("streefniveau" above "fundamental"). Victor Schmidt at SLO "interpreted" that only 3F was "required".

- <http://www.wiskundebrief.nl/738.htm#2>
- http://www.taalenrekenen.nl/ref_niveaus_rekenen/uitwerkingen/uitgelegd/
- https://staff.science.uva.nl/j.vandecraats/Mails_aan_Victor.pdf
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2016-03-09-Visie-NVWW-bestuur-op-de-rekentoets-klopt-niet.pdf>
- Parliamentarian and **mathematics teacher** and school board chairman Paul van Meenen is also member of D66 and should explain to his party that its "crown jewels" on "democracy" of district voting, direct elections of prime minister and mayors, and referenda have been based upon populism by Hans van Mierlo et al. in 1966 and not upon science, and thus aren't "democratic" at all, see <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Artikelen/2013-02-14-PasOpMetWiskundeOverVerkiezingen.html>
Van Meenen should also know that the CPB-directorate censored my paper on Arrow's Theorem that I later developed into the book *Voting Theory for Democracy* (VTFD). <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/VTFD/Index.html>

Potentially the event on June 8 will be a circus, but if it coalesces into some kind of consensus, then it is not impossible that this consensus is based upon confusion, based upon the structural disinformation provided by the RM-ME-MER community.

(7) Evidence 7: Censorship and abuse of power in 1990+ by the CPB-directorate

As said, it is only after I observed the **connections** that I decided that proper treatment of MER (i.e. the current misstate and structural disinformation and the resolution via Simon Stevin Institute) also requires attention in this letter for the censorship by the CPB-directorate. This should rather not be in an Appendix. Some readers are new to this topic (CPB-directors have heard about it but haven't studied it ?), but overall it is better to discuss it as a main issue, from which the connections follow.

The situation in 2016 reminds of the "Global Crisis" scenario in *Scanning the Future*, the CPB long term study 1990-2015, for which study I made the first "technical path" in 1989. My analysis on unemployment and poverty is also relevant for the economic crisis 2007+, the European disarray, the refugee issue, the Brexit referendum, and such, like also the upcoming elections in the USA 2016 and Holland 2017.

For the future, **an end to the censorship of science by the CPB-directorate** remains of key importance. If the CPB-directorate doesn't end this itself, at least it should encourage **civilised behaviour and respect for science in Holland**, whence Dutch people themselves will conclude that the censorship must be ended. In the mean time I advise a boycott of Holland till the issue is resolved.

Of key importance is to understand this: When a discussion of the case and my analysis causes an **inkling of interest** with someone, so that one wants to read some texts, and perhaps actually starts reading some (even at CPB the internal memo's written at CPB in 1989-1991 that were blocked from discussion and process towards publication), then this interest must be recognised for what it is, namely **evidence for the need to lift the censorship**. When there is any inkling of interest "why would a former CPB-researcher during 25 years insist on the importance of this analysis" then this should be translated into an admission that the censorship should be lifted, instead of killing that interest by assuming that "it was censored by a former CPB-directorate, and though those may not be infallible, the analysis *therefor* cannot be relevant". One should not presume that my texts have been written with proper scientific freedom. This also holds for later texts affected by that censorship. Studying them without allowing me the freedom to answer questions (and explain what might not immediately be understood, including my own degree of fallibility), would be to partake in the process of censorship. Any inkling of interest should be translated into the clear and unrestrained admission that the censorship should be resolved.

A tricky statement is: Discussion with me on this should be under the condition that the censorship has been resolved. A lawyer might turn this into the conclusion that one cannot speak with me. For scientists it would be obvious that there is no level playing field. I am writing this letter under the burden of a quarter century of censorship and abuse, and one must have a distorted view of sorts to read this letter without not first wanting to resolve the censorship.

(A) Köbben & Segers wrote for NVMC in 1994:

"(...) het feit dat [Cool] ertoe overging kritiek uit te oefenen op de werkwijze van het CPB. Het lijkt er voorsnog op dat hij onvoldoende ruimte heeft gekregen voor zodanige kritiek."

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/NVMC/Verslag.html>

Thus there is censorship of science. My protest was already clear (and why not believe me in the first place ?) but it is nice to see the confirmation by others. The administrative court allowed the CPB-directorate to proceed, but this court didn't apply rules of science. My job description was "scientific co-worker" with a task for research and publishing but the statute for state officials apparently doesn't respect science. The CPB-directorate might hold that it has to respect the law under which CPB operates, but, the mission of the CPB is to be scientific (see the Parliamentarian discussion on its creation) and when there are breaches then the directorate must report on this, also w.r.t. former directorates. The directorate should be horrified when the administrative court doesn't protect against censorship. The law has *ne*

bis idem such that the same issue cannot be submitted again, but science is different, and censorship is *on trial* all the time.

There is not only the continued censorship since 1990 but also the neglect of other evidence from **the period after my dismissal**:

- DRGTPE *background papers*, Magnana Mu Publishing & Research 1992, provided a reduced form analysis with theorem and proof that showed that my analysis was valid for the OECD area. This collection of papers was reworked into a book DRGTPE (2000, 2005, 2011), <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Index.html> For the methodology, see DRGTPE and recently <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/a-general-theory-of-knowledge>
- The Netherlands Antilles appear to have a similar structure of taxation and social security as in The Netherlands, and this generates similar unemployment and poverty, see PENAFIC, <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/PENAFIC/Index.html>
- The economic crisis 2007+ **confirms my analysis** too. The period 1990+ is an **empirical experiment** that confirms my analysis. The current CPB-directorate should look back at the period 1990-2007, and observe that Holland had a period with relatively low unemployment, whence it might have seemed to the world as if policy was doing fine and that my analysis on unemployment and poverty was irrelevant. However, check my analysis. The 1990-2007 situation was created by a wage restraint policy ("loonmatigingsbeleid") that kept exports high and caused deficits in other countries. Germany did the same. The euro-crisis exposed the debts of Southern Europe. Thus the **seeming success of Holland in 1990-2007 was based upon incorrect policy**, and again based upon censorship and incorrect analysis by CPB-directorate. <http://voxeu.org/debates/commentaries/current-economic-crisis-solution-lies-buried-and-obscured-mass-false-theory>

My analysis on unemployment and poverty is of key importance, and I explicitly present it as a sequel to Keynes's *General Theory*. Though see also McCracken.

<https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/10/26/thomas-robert-malthus-visiting-maastricht>

Economic scientists should look at empirical facts. My theory and analysis is falsifiable but hasn't been falsified. Also for physics **confirmation is relevant**, see apparently the Higgs boson (but I cannot judge on this).

In 1990-1991 my analysis concentrated on the structural case (parameters) of Holland, as an example for the OECD (though see the summary of the 1990 paper). For Holland, the approach with structural parameters links up to the need for a model exercise (that the directorate however blocked). The notion that this could be generalised in a more fundamental analysis was already in my mind, but not on paper, and might have been mentioned in internal presentation (that however was blocked by the directorate) (while the censorship also required attention).

After the dismissal the development of the Dutch case was less relevant since there was less scope for a model exercise, and thus a 1992 paper developed that earlier notion into the generalised model for the reduced form, thus working out a methodology (philosophy of science) that allows in this case to draw conclusions for the OECD.

- See DRGTPE for this "definition & reality methodology".
- <http://econpapers.repec.org/paper/wpawuwpgt/0501003.htm>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/a-general-theory-of-knowledge>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/09/08/pierre-van-hiele-and-epistemology>

Compare with Einstein on the theory of relativity and the curvature of space. I haven't quite studied this, but I understand the following about methodology. In the 1900s physicists lost much time on discussing the "aether", that would fill the void and affect motion (see also on "horror vacui"). This discussion led to nowhere, whence leading physicists stopped this discussion and concentrated on measurements. If something was empirical then it could be

measured. When Einstein noted that measurement with or on light was affected by the speed of light, he took the measured outcomes as empirical reality, which causes the conclusion that one must say that space is curved (Lorentz transformation). Einstein thus rejected the Euclidean distance measure for physical space. I would rather say that the fixed speed of light causes measurement errors. The length of an object doesn't change but it only seems different, because the method of measurement has inherent deficiencies. Our conceptual notion of space has already been defined by Euclidean space, and we are not at liberty to change this notion, for we would not know what "space" would mean otherwise. I can imagine a sphere with triangles with the sum of the angles different from a half turn, yet, this image is in 3D Euclidean space. Obviously, I am at risk mentioning this view, because I should study physics in order to be qualified to understand and perhaps criticise what physicists are saying (this doesn't change the formulas) (and perhaps get censored again). Nevertheless, the example can be given, to highlight the notion that our definitions guide our perception of reality. For economics, definitions guide both our perceptions and the outcomes of our models. Here I am on familiar ground, and can I propose the "definition & reality methodology".

(B) The CPB-directorate who censored my work were director Gerrit Zalm (born 1952, now CEO ABN-AMRO), Hans den Hartog (1934-1992) and Henk Don (like me born in 1954). Den Hartog had been put in charge of personel and was my main contact. Henk Don was **not present** at various key talks between Den Hartog an me about aspects like on integrity of science. Zalm became minister of Finance in 1994 ("Paars kabinet"). When Don succeeded him, Don remained loyal to the original approach by Zalm (departed) and Den Hartog (deceased). I informed Don that he hadn't been present at various key talks so that it would be proper to re-investigate, but I have had no such discussion with Don.

Gerrit Zalm is no quantitative economist (HBS alpha) and had no background in science but in the bureaucracy, and he should never have been appointed in the directorship at CPB. At that time I was not aware of how crucial this mis-appointment was, and only regarded him as the new director. Zalm came from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, that has a vested interest in wage restraint policy ("loonmatigingsbeleid"). This policy was also supported by Zalm. Obviously my analysis on unemployment and poverty contradicts this vested interest, but that should be of no concern, since my analysis is a scientific one.

After 1996 I got in contact with A.C. de Goederen, and he happened to have some more information about this period (likely via journalist Kees Tamboer). There appeared to have been a curious episode on Zalm still at the Ministry and an ESB-article by Anton Bakhoven at CPB, in which Zalm wrote a memo for minister Rudolf de Korte that contained a misleading argument, see Hans Hulst and Auke Hulst in collaboration with me, *Werkloosheid en armoede, de oplossing die werkt* (W&A), Thesis Publishers 1998, p 65-66.

- <http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/Hulst/WerkloosheidEnArmoede.pdf>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Publiek/Artikelen/armoede.html>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Taakverdeling/Taakverdeling.html>

PM. Alfred Kleinknecht (TU Delft) caused some discussion on the general wage restraint policy, but his argumentation wasn't strong, and rejected by CPB partly for the right reasons (ESB), while Kleinknecht refused to look at my analysis and the issue of censorship. Kleinknecht's position thus is rather curious, but one has to understand that he originally worked in Amsterdam, that the Ministry of Economic Affairs after his criticism withdrew his funds, whence he moved to TU Delft for refuge, where he stuck to his theme of innovation.

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Artikelen/KruisendeAnalyses.html>

In this broadcast, Sweder van Wijnbergen abuses Kleinknecht, while the tv-host Roland Koopman is amazed of what is happening, and while Kleinknecht is right on the topic. The RTLZ broadcast no longer available but it should be available again:

http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/components/financien/rtlz/miMedia/2010/week12/vr_1320_kaz_totaal.avi_plain.xml

See my discussion at:

<https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2013/05/06/email-to-paul-krugman>

What should worry the CPB-directorate is that the scientific discussion on the national wage restraint policy has been obstructed by the directorate itself itself, namely by this censorship and abuse w.r.t. dismissal, for, these acts clearly have affected how others have treated my work and me.

I do not wish to be forced into a position w.r.t. Zalm, and I will not be. Let Parliament ask him about the censorship and abuse of power, and let he provide answers, and potentially there is new information for me too. Potentially there was inadequate information from Den Hartog or the supervisor(s), though in my description of the case, e.g. in *Trias Politica & Centraal Planbureau* (1994), it should have been possible to ask questions to find any missing information at that time too. For me it suffices that there was censorship and this must be lifted. It is unclear to me why a CPB-directorate would not think the same.

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Record/1994/11/30/TPenCPB.html>

Still, Zalm became a very public figure after 1994, and the following is for completeness.

On occasion in the quarter century since 1990 I have made some comments in the margin. These comments are for the service of others who have to form an opinion on such *other* issues. Perhaps my comments are helpful, perhaps they aren't. I have not looked deeply into such other cases such as Bulgarian Fraud or DSB, first of all since I have no time for these, secondly since there is no reason, and thirdly since it would distract from the issue on censorship.

In 2015 I grew so annoyed by both the incompetence of Dutch society to resolve the censorship of science started by Zalm, and the frequent reports with so-called "criticism" w.r.t. Zalm that never really dug deeper, that I compiled a list of my comments. For some the list might seem remarkably long but it covers 25 years of public figure Zalm and for me it is short.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2015-04-03-Wetenschappelijk-protest-tav-Gerrit-Zalm-1988-2015.html>

Some items from that list are:

(i) Finance minister Gerrit Zalm and vice-minister Willem Vermeend presented a tax plan that however contained an obvious untruth. Unfortunately, also Rick van der Ploeg didn't want to tackle it. One of the consequences was the later fraud with tax credits ("toeslagen").

- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Artikelen/HKSamenvatting.html>
- <http://mpira.ub.uni-muenchen.de/47071>

(ii) Zalm became CFO at DSB (bank) that collapsed, and that had made money from questionable practices. The minister of Finance De Jager asked M. Scheltema to investigate, and he reported in 2010 that for Zalm **there were no prior issue on integrity**. Should this issue on **CPB censorship and abuse of power w.r.t. dismissal** not be a prior issue ?
Scheltema p12:

"(...) op het punt van de betrouwbaarheid wordt gesteld dat er geen sprake is van antecedenten die de persoonlijke integriteit van de heer Zalm raken".

<https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/blg-56063.pdf> found via
<http://www.volkskrant.nl/opinie/-waarom-was-michiel-scheltema-mild-voor-gerrit-zalm-en-hard-voor-nurten-albayrak~a3277143>

See also <https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/dsb-curatoren-halen-gerrit-zalm-weer-onderuit>
<https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/dsb-curatoren-halen-gerrit-zalm-weer-onderuit>

PM. Harrie Verbon is critical on some issues, but he doesn't mention the censorship of science by the CPB-directorate. He also defends Harrie de Swart in the case of Marcoen Cabolet, while he doesn't explain fully why De Swart withdrew the thesis from Tilburg ("onhandig" ?) and that De Swart really should have made sure that TUE knew about this.

<http://www.liberalitas.org/repositorium/080207.pdf>
<https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/03/02/h-c-m-de-swart-breaches-integrity-of-science>

(iii) In contact with journalists:

- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/wil-de-echte-gerrit-zalm-opstaan.html>
- <http://www.thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2015-04-14-Een-leugen-niet-op-leugens-nl.html>

(C) Let me mention science and journalism.

(C1) The Dutch **scientific world** has not undone the errors by the CPB-directorate on censorship and abuse of power w.r.t. my dismissal 1990+. There was no response to the Köbben & Segers report. They were from NVMC and not from the economics community.

The CPB-directorate should be shocked by this lack of criticism.

Some economists reject the idea of censorship since I could have presented my analysis to the economic journals. This is a nonsequitur.

- Censorship by the CPB-directorate should not be confused with freedom for journals. The censorship is by the CPB-directorate and should be solved there, not elsewhere.
- If my analysis would be published by a journal, then it still would have to be discussed at CPB, likely with model exercises, before it would percolate into policy advice. Why walk the indirect road when there is this direct road ? The current road has already taken 25 years but this is distance in time, while the road via journals is distance in logic.
- My analysis now is a book DRGTPE with a sequel CSBH and an extension VTFD (originally for the existence of the social welfare function), and still incomplete for example w.r.t. the model exercises. What journal is going to publish full books ?
- CPB has a special position, which partly explains why I developed the analysis at CPB originally in the first place, and why I deem it necessary, for the last quarter of a century, to emphasize the importance of the issue. (a) CPB co-ordinates policy making while journals specialise. Journals simply don't fit the combination of aspects of labour markets, taxes, social security, inflation, institutions, the role of knowledge, information and policy advice. (b) CPB has the modeling tradition that is much lacking at the academia, whence editors and referees who come from the academia are at risk of not understanding key elements. (c) Part of my analysis concerns errors in the models, which is a topic for CPB that others will be less versed in. (d) While I made parts of the analysis available already in these books, not all has come available, and there still is real tough censorship. A key notion here is discussion with and feedback from colleagues. There will be answers in my mind that will only pop up in such discussion, or that might require some thought or search for references. By now, models have changed, and I would have to rephrase aspects in terms of these. There might be objections that I have been aware of but that might require stricter phrasings. There might be objections that I haven't been aware of and that might require a comment for later research. Indeed, when I would present the analysis to the colleagues then it is common understanding that someone might make a comment that causes me to completely withdraw the analysis: because such discussion would be with open minds. Obviously I don't intend to waste everyone's time, but it is conceivable.
- Academic economists require retraining on DRGTPE and CSBH and VTFD before they would be able to understand the analysis. Submitting an article to a journal is a bit like

education for the referees, since there should be news in that article. But referees will not be able to copy the experience at CPB (informal knowledge) and retrain on full books.

It must be mentioned that some journals show curious behaviour. For a paper, a referee rejected it but stated that he or she would be interested in another paper with: and then stated the summary of the originally submitted paper itself. Was this sarcasm or a fluke ? Recent malbehaviour is by Flip de Kam for the journal *Tijdschrift voor Openbare Financiën*, who rejected a paper with the argument that I had already reported on the same topic in other public places: thus, he neglects the difference between *published* and *peer reviewed journal*.

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Brieven/2014-11-08-Wie-kan-me-uitleggen-dat-dit-deugt-q.html>

Given above doubts on the "peer reviewed journals", it must also be mentioned that the **citation scores** are of dubious value. Some people might read my work but not be able to do anything with it, and perhaps they don't refer to it because it wasn't published in a peer reviewed journal ? Christian Zimmermann of the RePEc team recently informed me, only w.r.t. economics (and not my books, and not mathematics education research, other than political economy on MER):

"Your profile currently contains 61 items, among them 60 papers, 1 software component.

Below are some traffic statistics for all these items, as provided by LogEc. More details for each of your works are available directly at

<http://logec.repec.org/RAS/pco170.htm>

| | Abstract File views | downloads |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Last month | 46 | 2 |
| Previous month | 48 | 4 |
| Last 3 months | 133 | 11 |
| Last 12 months | 633 | 91 |
| Since start | 52295 | 8524" |

Some economists in Holland hold that economic science should not be reduced to writing for journals. These economists still haven't protested against the censorship. See the example of Arjo Klamer below.

Looking at the **connections** between the two main topics of this letter, there is the angle concerning the difference in attitude between economists and mathematicians. One might wonder whether it is useful to say something about this slippery issue that might even be too difficult for anthropologists. However, one meets with two worlds here, and one must have an idea about attitudes to be able to understand events. The best position is not to judge, but be aware of subtleties in attitude. Thus, let me give an indication, at the risk of oversimplification. Economists tend to be more liberal and when they disagree with you then they may still give advice on what might be done. Mathematicians tend to be more binary, so that if there is one element of rejection then the other elements don't matter since there is rejection anyway. Clearly, this is too simple, but it does reflect my experience. Clearly, when an economist is a bureaucrat then he or she is first of all a bureaucrat. The example of Flip de Kam suggests a rough and tumble rejection like a mathematician might do, but the context remains that I spoke De Kam years earlier when he appeared unresponsive, and that I met him again at a conference, so that it was rather liberal of De Kam to try again. It is quite possible that when some research economists explain to De Kam that there really is a difference between public texts and a publication in a peer-reviewed journal (perhaps not for me and De Kam but for them) then he might change opinion and accept the paper for submission. This situation differs from the situation at the journal *Euclides*, the journal of the Dutch association of mathematics teachers: see my letter to VOR and institutes for training of teachers.

(C2) Of **journalists** there were mainly Hans Hulst and Auke Hulst who I explicitly searched for. The result were two excellent booklets for a general audience, W&A and DOK. They observed that people didn't pay attention so that they could do no more. They have continued with quality:

- <http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/SvHG.html#recensies>
- <http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/DOK/DOK-Aankondiging.html>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hans-hulst-04949366>
- <http://www.aukehulst.nl>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Pers/FalenVanDeMedia.html>

For journalism, it is relevant to refer again to the exchange with A.C. de Goederen, for the role by journalist Kees Tamboer (Parool) also w.r.t. Ad Melkert, then minister of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW), in the cabinet with Gerrit Zalm (Finance). There is NWO-Bessensap event, where scientists and journalists can meet.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Taakverdeling/Taakverdeling.html>
- <http://www.thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/2013-06-10-PosterBessensap.html>

(D) The CPB-directorate should be aghast about the sacrosanct status of CPB in Dutch society and the lack of democratic control and criticism. CPB lacks scientific quality (it censors science) and thus it is not being respected for its scientific quality but it has a high status, because people, including professors, have turned it into something unreal.

The directorate might deny sacrosanct status and point to criticism in various forms, e.g. when Van Geest was appointed director.⁴ These are however only ripples on the surface. The directorate would live in an ivory tower (a) when it denies this lack of criticism in Holland about this censorship, and (b) when it doesn't look for an adequate empirical explanation. **Simply stating "there is no censorship" is a denial of the Köbben & Segers report.** Science isn't a matter of power, by which criticism doesn't exist if it is suppressed.

The directorate did not fully neglect the Köbben & Segers report and vice-director Peter van den Berg gave a response on a draft version (see DOK), but took the view not to agree (and let the supervising authorities judge about this, and those never took the effort of speaking with me). This might seem reasonable. But is it? In my view it is obviously unreasonable. Can the directorate show a study that the economic crisis is **no confirmation** of my analysis? They must say: we don't *know*, since we don't know what that analysis is, because we censored it.

It is amazing that censorship of science can happen in Holland in 1990+ and Holland doesn't care. The 2007+ crisis confirms my analysis and who cares that CPB-directorate doesn't look into the evidence?

I read a news report on **Kansrijk arbeidsmarktbeleid** (CPB Boek 22), and it seems to confirm my conclusions of 1990, and then check my advice to Parliament to have a Parlemantarian enquiry: for the main problem for policy making is caused by errors in CPB-

⁴ <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Brieven/2013-04-27-AanLauraVanGeest.html> Van Geest will never know whether she would embrace the approach in this letter of today if she had the proper background as scientist. This is an uncertainty in this matter that should not exist. This uncertainty exists not only for CPB and the Dutch economy but also for me as an economic scientist, for it puts me into the position of writing to a director who is at more risk than others of not grasping what is at issue. With the experience since 2013 and evaluating the matter in this letter, Van Geest ought to decide that she should never have aspired at being director of CPB. Obviously, earlier economic scientists at the CPB-directorate were also at risk and already failed in grasping the **clear verdict by Köbben & Segers**, thus there is no certainty even for scientists (and Van Geest's colleagues Ter Weel and Kool). But it is too simple to argue that *it doesn't matter*. (Former directors were Henk Don (ACM), Coen Teulings, Peter van den Berg (Raad van State, Onafhankelijke Begrotingsautoriteit (OBA)), Lans Bovenberg (Netspar), Casper van Ewijk (Netspar), Taco van Hoek (EIB), George Gelauff (KIM), and forgive me if I forgot someone. Unfortunately, I learned from Hans Vijlbrief in his capacity as bureaucrat, see <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2013/05/28/caroline-on-thomas-and-hans.>)

models and that the directorate blocks discussion about those errors. I only comment on this news report. Why should I read & comment on CPB Boek 22 when the CPB-directorate will not be interested in my conclusions ? Should the outside world not be alarmed that the CPB-directorate reduces *scientific discussion in economics* into this deliberate blindness to criticism ? Shouldn't the directorate have a *sportsmanlike* attitude, and the willingness to admit: *Okay, we treated your theory badly, excuse us, allow us to try again*. If the economic crisis of 2007+ doesn't cause the CPB-directorate to change views, *what will* ? Should people not be aware of the connection between unemployment and the current refugee issue ?

(E) One effect in **connection** is that some people have been making fun of me, in claiming that I failed in economics and proceeded in failing in mathematics and/or its education. In 2008 "hendrikush" at the website of "Beter Onderwijs Nederland" (BON).

"Een econoom die zich naast vele andere bezigheden ook opwerpt als adviseur voor het onderwijs?"

Marten Hoffman (that might be an alias) adds there:

"Volgens mij is het ook een fantast en iemand die gelooft in complottheorieën. Hij beschuldigt links en rechts alles en iedereen van fouten maar is zelf uiteraard brandschoon. Nee mooier nog: hij is zelf de enige die alles goed ziet."

It beats me how they (mathematicians ?) can judge on economics when they apparently are not economists themselves. They also misrepresent and slander on mathematics education. This particular derogatory discussion on the BON forum was started by mathematician Gerard Verhoef,⁵ member of the board of BON⁶ but also secretary of the "Stichting Goed Rekenonderwijs". SGR appears to be sectarian.⁷ PM. I never met these people. PM. The weblink at BON has been moved. For unknown reason the phrase "Een econoom" now has been deleted. By accident ? Perhaps they learned from my criticism that I was also a teacher of mathematics, but the proper reaction is not to hide your mistake but to apologise and look again at the proposal.

- <http://www.thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2012-01-11-FatsoenMoetJeDoen.html>
- <http://www.beteronderwijsnederland.nl/content/sinus-en-radialen-te-moeilijk-voor-kinderen-laten-we-iets-nieuws-bedenken>
- Since 2008 the approach on angles has been polished up and not changed, and see e.g. <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/NiceNumbers/Index.html>.

When I used this approach to angles to discuss Euclid's fifth postulate, I later observed that the website "Theorem of the day" responded positively:

"And that any single mathematical truth manifests itself in so many ways is such a magical thing! This is precisely the ingenious SheckyR's point in *Through the Looking Glass* and (back to teaching) Keith Devlin's point in *The Power of Dots*. Mercurial Colignatus contributes to this theme on the subject of Euclid's Fifth Postulate; and I must mention Andrea Hawksley again, who always has a different angle on mathematics! Try her delightful *Zip tie tangle*."

- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2014/06/29/euclids-fifth-postulate>
- <http://www.theoremoftheday.org/SpecialEvents/CoM112.html>

The point that should worry the CPB-directorate is, that **Dutch society stifles criticism about CPB** by such maltreatment like from Gerard Verhoef, "hendrikush" and Marten Hoffman. Failure by CPB remains undetected also because such lynchmen ride out once they smell blood, whatever the cause for that blood. When the girl was raped by the CPB-

⁵ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gerard-verhoef-09924114>

⁶ <https://www.beteronderwijsnederland.nl/content/bestuur-en-contact>

⁷ <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2015-09-23-SGR-deugt-ook-al-niet.html>

directorate, the lynch party finds that she caused it herself, and when she protests then she only proves that she is a liar too and deserves a good beating first.

(F) The inability in Dutch society to deal with protest against censorship is widespread, not only on webfora but also in structured "reviews", see this misrepresentation and slander in a "review" by Tilburg sociologist Frans Kerstholt in 2005 on *De ontketende kiezer* (DOK) of 2003, another person whom I never met:

<http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/DOK/Globalalternatives-2005-02-22.html>

This isn't just a website. A person at Globalalternatives was Tuur Elzinga, now senator for SP. SP has been structurally disinformed. Unfortunately, Globalalternatives didn't look into ways to resolve the problem with this "review" either. They show that they are part of Dutch culture of not appreciating criticism. Unfortunately, SP can abuse CPB-reports when CPB evaluates election programmes.

<http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/00000028.html>

However, SP not only consists of a leadership, and members of SP would have a right to receive scientifically correct information as well.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2013-04-19-BoeienBindenBenutten.html>

SP uses a tomato as the logo of protest, and economics professor Arjo Klamer seems to support free speech but doesn't protest against censorship of science. There are similar questions for historian Sjaak van der Velden who appeared disappointed in SP. Potentially, when Kerstholt had written a decent review, Klamer and Van der Velden might have taken notice ?

- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2014-11-21-Email-Hilversum.html>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2014-11-25-Vragen-aan-SvdV.html>
- Compare my approach in science with this political view by this author:
<http://www.krapuul.nl/overig/blog/69409/rancuneuze-ex-spers-slaan-wild-om-zich-heen-met-wraakzuchtig-fantasieverhaal>

To return to Kerstholt: he later tackled Paul Krugman and "forgot" to compare with my analysis, but the editor of the journal didn't want to know about criticism.

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2013-04-20-Crisis-Kerstholt-Recensies.html>

Recently, there appeared this angle w.r.t. mathematician F. van der Duyn Schouten, at that time Tilburg rector magnificus, supervising sociologist Kerstholt:

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-03-15-Some-experiences-with-HdS-RB-FvdDS-JvdC.html>

(G) As said, the 2007+ economic crisis confirms my analysis. See my mention of this at:

<http://voxeu.org/debates/commentaries/current-economic-crisis-solution-lies-buried-and-obscured-mass-false-theory>

The CPB-directorate neglects this evidence however. Since 2012 the Dutch government has a service "Adviespunt Klokkenluiders" (AK) where whistleblowers can report misstates. One possible category is "former employee". Given that there will be some changes in the near future on this weblink, let me give a link to wikipedia (a portal, no source).

https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adviespunt_Klokkenluiders

This is my report to AK:

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/AK/2013-01-01-AanHetAdviespuntKlokkenluiders.html>

AK answered that "**there is no misstate**, whence we cannot process your report". I don't think that they have the expertise to judge that there is no misstate that I reported on. Thus, I alerted the Ombudsman that my report was maltreated. Ombudsman proceeded to maltreat this alert in their own fashion.

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/AK/Index.html>

I never met or spoke with these people at AK or Ombudsman. Are they really incompetent? My impression is that these government agencies did not take me seriously, regarded me as a lunatic, and that they abused seemingly-correct statements to get rid of me. I suppose that they will deny this, lacking the gusto of "hendrikush" and Marten Hofmann and Gerard Verhoef and Frans Kerstholt. Whatever that is, their statements are incorrect. AK was created to advise people on what best to do, and in this case they failed to advise me. Mutatis mutandis Ombudsman on this failure by AK.

(H) The CPB-directorate should not only be aghast about the sacrosanct status of CPB, but also about the **maltreatment of former CPB-employees related to their earlier work at CPB**. A cynic might think that the directorate would welcome the abuse by Frans Kerstholt in 2005 and "hendrikush" in 2008 and the misdirection by AK and Ombudsman in 2013: for all this helps to silence my criticism about the censorship. However, when the directorate supports science and a civil society then it will also want to protect the environment in which not only employees but also former employees report about their work at CPB. Societal discussion about such reports should respect science and be civilised, whatever agreement or disagreement with the directorate on content or criteria of science. Without civilized treatment, such societal abuse stifles critique and eventually reduces the quality of research and advice of CPB itself.

As far as I have been able to observe, the directorate has stuck rather consistently to the official story told to the legal court, and this may be regarded as a compliment in the sense that there is no escalation in abuse, albeit that the official story is an untruth and an abuse of power. Let me propose a **message by the CPB-directorate to KNAW and economic scientists and journalists and AK and Ombudsman and BON and RM-ME-MER-community and the EU and the ECB** that I am a decent person and competent econometrician and that my work, including the critique w.r.t. the CPB-directorate, must be judged upon content and not be submitted to misrepresentation and slander or fear for plague and lunacy. The directorate will be aware that such a statement would cause the question why the directorate doesn't do so itself, but the directorate ought to agree that such protection against the shown societal abuse is important, while secondly it is a good occasion to reflect about that question indeed.

(I) I worked at CPB in 1982-1991. Please observe:

(I-a) In 1982-1991 the directorate and colleagues **did not know** about my result on *A Logic of Exceptions* (ALOE) of 1981, published in 2007 (see the letter to VOR and others). It had been maltreated by some logicians, and I felt it less relevant to pursue this because I wanted to proceed with econometrics. It was only in 2007 that I retyped it and programmed it in *Mathematica* (Wolfram), see the explanation in the book itself. Potentially, when the logicians had reacted conform scientific integrity, see the review by Richard Gill in *Nieuw Archief voor Wiskunde* 2008, then the situation at CPB might have been different.

In 1982-1991 I had no CPB-publications to my name either. Please don't think that I cannot write or that I am no original analyst. The reorganisation into the department of MSS caused me to shelve a study on the Paper, Printing and Publishing Industry (of which I was the specialist). Subsequently there was a load of computer programming. One project that I did was a re-estimate of the Den Hartog & Tjan model with more recent data, and while the

project was technically sound, no-one, including me, felt the need to publish it. The analysis had lost its relevance (e.g. the loss of the clothing industry mistaken for a macro effect).

In 1989-91 CPB director Gerrit Zalm abused power to censor and dismiss me. It is relatively easy to abuse a co-worker with few publications to his name. It is relatively hard to neglect an established author with a relevant book, when outsiders will say: listen better to what he says.

(I-b) For the record: The case started in December 1989 when the directorate halved a standard salary raise, and my supervisor informed me about this, and explained this by that a memo of mine had met with disapproval from the directorate and that I "better should not have written it".⁸ This was a curious statement in itself, with lack of arguments on content, but also given that my supervisor had proposed the standard raise and did not protest. My inquiry had the effect that three months later I was put in a separate room with the task of "reading and writing" (no promotion). The official reason given by the directorate was later destroyed by the judge as an abuse of power.⁹ The directorate also forbade access to the computer and the model Athena that I had helped develop, so that my analysis couldn't be supported by such, which is a criterion sometimes mentioned by the directorate. All my papers written in that period were blocked from internal discussion and the process towards publication under the name of the author. This appeared when I developed my analysis on unemployment and poverty in a longer paper in 1990 and asked for such.¹⁰ This is censorship of science. Since then I have been in a **state of protest** against censorship of science. This actually also holds for the salary raise but the statement by my supervisor is not on paper. (Thus I write 1990+ where 1989+ is sharper.) The legal system unfortunately doesn't allow for cross-examinations on the issue of the salary raise. However, see my book TP & CPB for a deconstruction based upon logic and other details.¹¹ This state of protest since 1990 cannot be compared to the normal situation in 1982-1990 before, and the judge should allow for special conditions, but doesn't. In 1990-1991 I concentrated on my new assignment "reading and writing", while waiting for the resolution of the legal process. I (only) spoke out on the censorship at a meeting of NWO / ECOZOEK in 1991 which was the appropriate forum for this.¹² My protest for the general public started only in 1991 after I found myself dismissed with another abuse of power. The legal process allowed the directorate all this, in error of justice and disrespect of science. Please explain to the unemployed and poor that allowing this error of justice is more important than integrity of science. It essentially also means that science has insufficient protection. My advice for an Economic Supreme Court is based upon general principles of Political Economy,¹³ but this particular episode is an example that the current system doesn't provide the protection of scientists that Parliament stated as its wish when CPB was created. (Or, such protection was available back then when society still had respect for science.)

NB. There are the Eurozone Growth and Stability Pact / Fiscal Compact / Two Pack with:

"Common budgetary rules at the national level shall be monitored by independent institutions."¹⁴

For The Netherlands, the *Raad van State*, founded by emperor Charles V in 1531, has been appointed as the *Onafhankelijke Begrotingsautoriteit* (OBA).¹⁵ The council already had this

⁸ <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Record/1989/11/23/index.html>

⁹ (a) <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Pers/DeDraad3.html>

(b) <http://www.thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2015-04-14-Een-leugen-niet-op-leugens-nl.html>

¹⁰ <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Record/1990/12/18/index.html>

¹¹ <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Record/1994/11/30/TPenCPB.html>

¹² <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/DenButter/HeelErgEng.html>

¹³ <http://www.res.org.uk/view/art7Oct14Features.html>

¹⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/economic_governance/sgp/index_en.htm

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/articles/governance/2012-03-14_six_pack_en.htm

<https://www.tweedekamer.nl/vergaderingen/commissievergaderingen/details?id=2015A05756>
<http://www.nederlandrechtsstaat.nl/module/nlrs/script/viewer.asp?soort=commentaar&artikel=75>

kind of function but now must also oversee application of Eurozone rules for Holland. Obviously, the Economic Supreme Court (ESC) as suggested by economic analysis differs quite a lot from this EU effort to try to get some control over budget deficits and debts in the Member States. One might say that the topic of discussion is different, but the better analysis rather is that EU and *Raad van State* were not aware of my analysis. The current approach is not only suboptimal but also intransparent and comes with risks.

To indicate the importance of this difference, and show the consequences of the censorship, let me quote Van den Berg (former CPB-vice-director (failing) and now Raad van State) and Van Geest (current CPB-director) on OBA and CPB.

- Van den Berg emphasizes separation of powers between forecasting and budget testing, but I would emphasize scientific integrity. Raad van State doesn't have the quantitative base in economics as CPB has, and lacks the scientific fibre that would allow an ESC to rule and be specific with required authority. Perhaps Raad van State wants to develop that authority but then we have two CPBs which is awkward. My suggestion of a Court allows for different views and the result of a single decision.
- Van Geest indicates that EMU rules on deficits and debts are only marginal, while the driving core mechanisms are left to the Member States. She proposes an alternative of lump sum austerity goals. She must have in mind that austerity causes lower growth and hence rising deficits again, which indeed is a moving (marginal) target. This is bureaucratic thinking. One can agree that trying to hit a moving target is rather self-defeating, and one can agree on Van Geest's intention to find a rule that makes austerity work without such image of defeat. However, I would prefer the conclusion from economic science that austerity is the wrong approach, precisely since it makes issues worse. What is required is to monitor economic policy such that it leads to recovery, and this can be done at the national level of each separate nation by a national ESC, and co-ordination via exchange of information within the Eurozone and EU. The CPB-director should rather state clearly that **EMU doesn't work** and that there is need for a new treaty (and not the pacts that don't change the principle that fiat money now works as the gold standard). To understand this, Van Geest should study my analysis in DRGTPE and CSBH, and stop censoring it.

"Drs. P. van den Berg van de Raad van State belichtte de nieuwe rol van de Raad als onafhankelijke begrotingsautoriteit. Deze behelst een vanuit het zogenaamde Fiscal Compact verplichte toets op de vraag of Nederland voldoet aan de Europese begrotingsregels. Deze functie is bewust niet bij het CPB ondergebracht om een scheiding met de ramingsfunctie te waarborgen. De Miljoenennota 2015 wordt voor de eerste maal van een dergelijke toets van de OBA voorzien. Hij benadrukte dat een dergelijke toets beter uitvoerbaar is bij eenvoudiger regelgeving.

Drs. L. van Geest van het CPB gaf een analyse van het Stabiliteits- en Groeipact en in hoeverre dit voldoet aan de vereisten van eenvoud, plausibiliteit en uitvoerbaarheid. Op al deze aspecten is ruimte voorverbetering. Landen worden geacht hun begrotingen te sturen aan de hand van bepaalde marges voor het structurele saldo. Dit is echter een 'bewegend doel' en geen eenduidig begrip, het ware beter om te sturen op een heldere door de Europese Commissie in een concreet bedrag vastgestelde bezuinigingsdoelstelling. Er is nu veel ruimte voor interpretatie door de Europese Commissie en de aanbevelingen en oordelen zijn daarmee niet altijd navolgbaar en consistent." (Rekenkamer, p4)¹⁶

Intermezzo

To emphasize the need of **separation of powers between politics and science**, let me make some comments, that might seem to be political, but are targeted at removing politics from meddling with scientific advice (like on CPB, or OBA, or education).

Apparently Ad Melkert (mentioned above) has been appointed at *Raad van State* for a function related to OBA or explicitly for OBA. Apparently this is a political appointment, while

¹⁶ <http://www.rekenkamer.nl/dsresource?objectid=20427&type=org>

the idea of the Economic Supreme Court has the separation of powers between politics (general elections) and science, with appointments structured like the Supreme Court.

- <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2016/01/15/benoemingen-bij-raad-van-state>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Taakverdeling/Taakverdeling.html>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2012/04/23/ad-melkert-and-ilo>

Melkert has been proposed by Ronald Plasterk, molecular microbiologist, the current minister of internal affairs (BZK). Plasterk should be interested in my book on the Antilles (PENAFIC). Before, Plasterk was minister of culture, education and science (OCW). Apparently he did not understand the notion of censorship of science by the CPB-directorate. He also suggested that Simon Stevin Institute would increase bureaucracy while it would actually reduce it. Plasterk was also financial spokesman for the PvdA-fraction in Parliament during the euro-crisis related to Greece, and instead of international solidarity with Greek labourers, pensioners and poor he joined the ill-advised neoliberal stand on austerity. That this neoliberal policy is ill-advised will be all the more clearer when the censorship by the CPB-directorate is lifted.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2009-10-15-Reacties.pdf> (point 9)
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2013-07-24-CursusEconomie.html>
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/roze-bril.html> (2010-04-10)
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/plasterk.html> (2011-08-14)
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/paljas.html> (2011-10-26)
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/vernis.html> (2012-01-26)
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/nobelprijs-2.html> (2012-03-13)

End intermezzo

(I-c) The period 1991-2007 is interesting itself for other reasons, e.g. on the books TP&CPB, DRGTPE and VTFD. Incidentally, the study on MER caused me to a further suggestion on epistemology and methodology, further building upon ALOE.¹⁷

(I-d) The period 2007+ is marked by the co-incidence of (i) the world economic crisis, (ii) that ALOE became available, (iii) that I started teaching mathematics in highschool, with the teaching degree in 2008 and my beginning of writing on mathematics education and its research. Now there are books EWS, COTP, EKWA, CWNN, FMNAI, for which there are some reviews available. The CPB-directorate is **seriously disinform**ed by the RM-ME-MER community. There is misrepresentation and slander, but since the directorate has no background in MER, it will be difficult for you to judge. Since CPB must develop insight into mathematics education given its relevance in education in general, let me suggest that CPB hires econometricians qualified for MER, if those are not already present, and that these look into my analysis and discuss this with me.

Thus, given the maltreatment by the RM-ME-MER community, the CPB-directorate doesn't get the required feedback about the quality of my work, both on ALOE in 1981 and the new work after 1991, like DRGTPE or 2007+. There aren't people in Holland yet who reason: if this latter work is so good, then what about the work done at the CPB ?

(J) PM. on the above: Given the CPB dismissal letter of 1991, my dismissal from CPB was not because of lack of quality of my work (that was appreciated – with a curious question mark on the 1989 memo and papers written in 1990-1991, during which I supposedly didn't function (no salary raise at all) but it was the directorate that had me put into that separate room and that blocked papers from discussion and publication. The dismissal was on a sudden inability to function in the CPB hierarchy (which misrepresents what was happening, and turns scientific discourse into legalisms). Still, the directorate doesn't really need to be convinced of the quality of my work, as it already was in 1982-1989, and this easily transfers to the area of MER (though check and double check). Thus the abuse by the RM-ME-MER-community should be rather obvious. The conundrum that the CPB-directorate must explain,

¹⁷ <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/24/a-general-theory-of-knowledge>

however, is that my work of quality is neglected by CPB itself. Since the economic crisis of 2007+ confirms my analysis, shouldn't science require that the analysis gets attention ? However, the conundrum would be much clearer **for the world** if there wasn't that **culture of math wars in the RM-ME-MER community**.

Köbben & Segers 1994 attach the letter by vice-director H. den Hartog, 1991-05-03, nr. D 1381, stating:

"(...) de reden om uw verzoek om faciliteiten ter voorbereiding van uw ECOZOEK-presentaties af te wijzen berust op bezwaren van de CPB-directie tegen de inhoud van uw presentaties. Deze bezwaren zijn van dezelfde strekking als die ten grondslag liggen aan de weigering artikelen van uw hand over de dezelfde onderwerpen als van uw voorgenomen ECOZOEK-presentaties in een CPB-publicatierreeks op te nemen. Meer concreet, in de ene presentatie is klaarblijkelijk de positie van het CPB in negatieve zin in het geding, terwijl de andere presentatie niet van zodanig gehalte is dat de CPB-directie die het ondersteunen waard vindt." ("De ontketende kiezer", 2003, p112-113) <http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/DOK/DOK-Aankondiging.html>

Comments on this are:

- The directorate thus finds it negative that I advise to a Parliamentary enquiry (which may show that the CPB better be promoted to a constitutional Economic Supreme Court). Anyway, this is content, and no reason for blockage, for it is my paper and not a paper by the directorate.
- The other paper concerns Arrow's *Impossibility Theorem*. Earlier when talking about this, Den Hartog had stated that the issue was too complicated for CPB (himself) to judge. Thus the term "quality" ("gehalte") is not necessarily an indication of low quality but rather the lack of ability to deal with it. Again the reasoning is deficient, for Den Hartog shouldn't mistake his own view or inability for the process of peer review and/or discussion once the argument has become available by publishing it.

Arrow was a mathematician himself, before he embarked on economics. His *Impossibility Theorem* is important (and not difficult to prove, namely suppose that it is possible and then give a counterexample) but his interpretation of this is deficient. My CPB-paper still stands, with the distinction between voting and deciding (and a suggestion at resolution by means of other axioms). Later I found it more convenient to rephrase this debunking with a different emphasis. All this has become the book "*Voting Theory for Democracy*", <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/VTFD/Index.html>

- It shouldn't surprise that this analysis was abused by mathematicians as well, see <http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/Wetenschap/Artikelen/2013-02-14-PasOpMetWiskundeOverVerkiezingen.html>.
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/03/02/h-c-m-de-swart-breaches-integrity-of-science>
- Also Kiesraad is structurally disinformated, and a political party like D66 might better abolish itself since they don't understand "democracy".

(J) There is a certain kind of "begging the question". People who observe my **state of protest** and hear my protest against censorship by the directorate of the CPB apparently think that it is only understandable that I was dismissed because the very idea of such censorship doesn't strike them as reasonable. Apparently, for Dutch society the protest against censorship *itself* confirms the appropriateness of the dismissal.

Who will tell Dutch society that this doesn't show respect for science ? Some people and even professors think that CPB isn't scientific anyway. Other people who accept scientific status of CPB (but rather mean a form of sanctity) might accept the theoretical idea that the directorate might make an error of censorship, but reject it in my case, and this doesn't get further clarification. People must think so, otherwise they would protest too. They don't want to read Köbben & Segers, but if they would read it, then it would not **register** what this report states. Cool should have shut up and still work there and be busy with shutting up.

This inability to combine the notion of CPB with the notion of censorship and this tendency to blame the victim apparently explains the lack of response in Dutch society.

Let CPB-directorate try to give another explanation, while respecting the Köbben & Segers report and while not denying that the censorship exists.

Thus let me repeat: The current directorate of the CPB should be **aghast** about the lack of democratic control and criticism. CPB lacks scientific quality (it censors science) and is not being respected for its scientific quality but is has a high status because people including professors have turned it into something unreal. The directorate should not be proud of what it achieves: it hides censorship of science and abuse of power w.r.t. dismissal, and it abuses the gullibility of Dutch society. The CPB-censorship caused wrong policy in 1990-2007 leading up to the crisis (including adoption of a problematic euro) and a wrong policy after this too, with a repeat of the wage restraint policy. (I read a text by CPB that implied that wage restraint might no longer be the mantra, but the reasoning was incomplete and the advice didn't carry conviction.)

(K) Let me say a bit more on our fellow economists. One might make a case that the prime failure in Dutch society lies with the economists, who allowed this censorship to proceed. I agree that there is a failure, but wonder about the order of importance. With economists I should rather have a discussion on content and not on protesting against censorship.

(K-a) One way to check the neglect of the censorship is to look at the *Preadviezen* of the KVS since 1990. They consistently don't refer to my analysis and the censorship.

(K-b) Very awkward is the case of professor Frank den Butter, former chairman of KVS:

<http://www.thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2013-03-17-TPE-FAGdenButter.pdf>

(K-c) KNAW should inform the universities of my advice for the dismissal of professors of economics. There should be an acceptable explanation if KNAW would not support this. One should also look at now-retired professors of economics who allowed the censorship to continue.

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/Nederlands/TPnCPB/Artikelen/AdviesOntslagHooglerarenEconomie.pdf>

(K-d) Joan Muysken (University of Maastricht) wrote a deficient "review" of W&A in *Staatscourant*. I can also refer to the too early decease of Jules Theeuwes, and an obituary by Joop Hartog (researching both labour economics and education economics).

- <http://thomascool.eu/SvHG/Hulst/Staatscourant.html>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/how-coffee-becomes-latte>
- <http://www.frontaalnaakt.nl/archives/milieu-en-migratie.html>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2013/02/05/about-the-dead>

(K-e) There is the important case of economist Dirk Bezemer, who wrote a paper about economists who had warned about the risks that eventually materialised in the crisis 2007+: "*No one saw this coming*". I informed Bezemer that he should include me in his list, but he has not responded to my arguments, and he has continued disinforming Parliament and journalists and others since.

- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2009-10-23-ColignatusVsBezemer.pdf>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2012/12/23/dirk-bezemer-disinforms-sweden/>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/17/dirk-bezemer-disinforms-dutch-parliament/>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2016/01/18/dirk-bezemer-disinforms-radar-tv/>

(K-f) In my considered appreciation, there is an economist in Holland other than me who deserves to be named as candidate for the Nobel Prize in economics. I have no position at the academia that allows me to name him myself. Blocking me from doing my scientific work thus also comes at the price of that a particular line of research by another economist doesn't get proper appreciation, neither by colleagues nor education nor policy making. The censorship by the CPB-directorate is rather destructive for Dutch economic research (whatever the scores in the journals). (I request – and all my requests are polite requests – that KNAW and CPB support that candidacy, and you can ask me confidentially.)

(8) Evidence 8: ALLEA / KNAW / LOWI fail too

I wrote KNAW in 1992 (writing "Academie" instead of "Akademie"), repeated this in 1994 and 1995, but in 1992+ KNAW didn't help to resolve the CPB-censorship yet.

KNAW didn't want to get involved w.r.t. the censorship of science by the CPB-directorate. Their argument was that it would be a conflict between employee and employer, and that this was a reason why they couldn't get involved. This is curious. **Doesn't KNAW know that employers can abuse labour regulations to enforce censorship ?**

KNAW claims to cover all science in Holland but KNAW / LOWI only deals with universities. The 1994 Köbben & Segers report is about government agency CPB that however has claims on science and not about an university and thus LOWI regards it as inapplicable. Besides, the CPB-case is from 1990 and LOWI was created in 2001. Overall, what is relevant is the fundamental position of KNAW w.r.t. integrity of science, and the LOWI code of conduct is only a *result* of that fundamental position. We should not turn the issue around, and depart from the LOWI code to see what KNAW might do.

In 1990-1996, Pieter Drenth was President KNAW, and subsequently in 2000-2006 President of ALLEA. He helped create the code of conduct w.r.t. research integrity.

In 2015 I looked at the interaction on MER between mathematics teacher and didactics researcher P.M. van Hiele and psychologist A.D. de Groot. De Groot also proposed **Forum Theory** for dealing with methodology and scientific truth. I discovered that Drenth was a psychologist, on testing, with some interest in mathematics, and had been in contact with De Groot. This encouraged me to think that there might be common ground. Thus my question to Drenth was what he thought about Forum Theory, whether he agreed that Forum Theory would be a good way for prevention of (many) cases of integrity, and whether he might agree that KNAW should look into the CPB-case, if not in the past then at least now.

Of the following two links, the first presents the case and the second discusses Drenth's answer. Unfortunately, he copied his answer immediately to KNAW / LOWI without first checking or talking with me whether he understood me properly. (I did so to, but I asked the questions.)

- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/11/26/allea-defines-research-integrity-too-narrow>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2015-12-16-Why-ALLEA-doesnt-see-censorship-of-science-in-Holland.pdf>

From my weblog, my summary on Drenth's reply is:

"Drenth rejects the idea that he misjudged the censorship of science in Holland. Drenth doesn't focus on the suggestion of reviving Forum Theory (A.D. de Groot). He states explicitly that he regards the final section of this weblog text as a personal attack. My response is that this latter statement is a breach of scientific integrity. Denouncing the critique as a personal attack may cause other people to neglect the criticism. There is no personal attack. There is objective reason to discuss the role of Drenth as president KNAW and ALLEA, with his preference for the legal approach and my preference for the scientific approach. One wishes to understand where his policy preference comes from. The video that I found is not helpful, since it is not

critical, and thus there are ample reasons to warn viewers about points to be critical about. It is still a mystery why Drenth, who claims to defend science, doesn't do so in the cases that I mention: CPB and education of mathematics."

I am rather perplexed by Drenth's reaction and immediate sending to KNAW / LOWI. He misrepresents my analysis and questions. My critical remarks about the failure of KNAW in 1992+ are dismissed, and Drenth (his point 11) again misrepresents the CPB-case as an individual conflict between employee and employer. Apparently he hasn't read the 1994 Köbben & Segers report, but in his mind he doesn't have to because he has already dismissed the case as an employee-employer conflict. It is fully unclear to me whether Drenth is even aware of the scientific status of CPB and my employment contract. It would be useful when KNAW would explicitly state to be aware of these aspects.

"11. De KNAW kan niet treden in individuele conflicten werkgever – werknemer, ook niet als het gaat om vermeende schending van ethische normen. De KNAW heeft daarvoor niet de bevoegdheid noch de mankracht. Dat is ook de reden dat de klacht van Cool over een conflict met zijn werkgever het CPB, begin 90 van de vorige eeuw bij de KNAW gedeponneerd, 'administratief' is afgehandeld. Het Bestuur van de KNAW heeft daarvan geen weet gehad. De stelling dat ik als President van de KNAW gefaald heb omdat ik mij destijds in deze zaak ter verdediging van Cool niet tot de rechter heb gewend leg ik dus gewoon naast mij neer." (P.J.D. Drenth, 2016-12-20, p13 here: <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Drgtpe/Crisis-2007plus/2015-12-16-Why-ALLEA-doesnt-see-censorship-of-science-in-Holland.pdf> PM. Drenth uses the term "ethische normen", see his point 2, which might also lead attention away from the issue of censorship of science.)

Why does Drenth hang on to a false argument (and a begging of the question) ? Authority ("bevoegdheid") and manpower ("mankracht") apply. In my deconstruction of the KNAW failure I also try to understand Drenth's background, for it might be that there is something that makes him incapable to understand and accept KNAW's failure. Aristotle made the rhetoric distinction between ethos, logos and pathos, and science concentrates on logos, but A.D. de Groot in Forum Theory accepts that science is a human enterprise, and we can't do without ethos, while it must be handled fairly. My deconstruction is interpreted by Drenth as "ad hominem", as arguments directed at his person. This is a misinterpretation, and, since he didn't check with me whether he understood me well, a misrepresentation. My deconstruction is fair, and it helps indeed to understand why Drenth is blind to the failure. **Drenth's approach is an administrative one and not that of a scientist.** This is not ad hominem but a distinction in approach. Scientists will think that KNAW should be an institute for science and not an exercise in administration and law. Drenth adopted a managerial approach, and Holland and the world has suffered from it.

In his final sentence, Drenth himself makes an ad hominem argument, while abusing his authority of a psychologist to disqualify me (though I didn't consult him in sessions, and then it would be a breach of doctor-patient confidentiality). Drenth was born in 1935 and was 80 in 2015, and the video and letter show him as quite vital and compos mentis, so this ad hominem has no excuse of failing faculties, and it is a pure breach of scientific integrity.

"12. (...) Zoals ik in een e-mail aan Cool reeds heb gemeld betreur ik dat het einde van het stuk in boycottholland een onaangenaam karakter krijgt met persoonlijke aanvallen en ad hominem diskwalificaties. (...) Waarom het stuk zo negatief en persoonlijk eindigt, weet ik niet precies, maar de psycholoog in mij denkt er het zijne van."

We see the same response as with Gerard Verhoef and "hendrikush" and Marten Hoffman and Frans Kersholt: to destroy the messenger of criticism. Remarkably, Drenth is the former president of KNAW and ALLEA who has also written on research integrity.

My contact with Drenth at the end of 2015 was a new development. An earlier protest w.r.t. Robbert Dijkgraaf is here:

<https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2012/03/08/robbert-dijkgraaf-as-darth-vader>

It should be easy for KNAW in 2016 to diagnose that it was a failure indeed in 1992 not to look into the case. Potentially one might allow, for Drenth, that a study will still show a "normal" employer-employer conflict but this then would be based upon study and not be a superficial excuse to neglect it. The study should be done by scientists and not by administrators or lawyers. The study should not be on whether my economic theory is correct, for that should be done at CPB, but KNAW better checks on the censorship and abuse of power w.r.t. the dismissal. KNAW should also correct the abuse by Drenth.

(9) Conclusion

When CPB was created in 1945 with the appointment for Jan Tinbergen, and the later law of 1947, Dutch Parliament and government accepted, see memoranda and the discussion in Parliament, that **CPB's work and advice are based in science**. Thus I am telling nothing new here. For my research and publication at CPB no new law is required. (See the discussion in TP & CPB.) What is lacking is respect for science. In this, 1988+ CPB-directorates have been failing themselves too. After 1990 Henk Don has done much to improve the scientific structure also with international visitations, yet the censorship and abuse w.r.t. me still must be resolved. There are also the consequences, like for mathematics education research, and the connections.

W.r.t. mathematics education research (MER), my suggestion are these: (a) KNAW would withdraw its KNAW 2009 report on education in arithmetic because of the lack of qualification of the authors and shown errors. To be able to judge on the errors KNAW would require qualification on MER itself, but it should suffice to look at the qualifications of the authors. The KNAW 2009 study would remain available for historical reference but contain such warning. KNAW would inform Parliament and the minister of Education of this. (b) KNAW would investigate what has been happening with its mathematics section in relation to MER and/or me. (c) CPB might already have, and if not then would hire, some econometricians who are also qualified for MER, and they could corroborate my diagnosis on the errors in the KNAW 2009 report, and inform Parliament and the minister of Education. (d) CPB would inform VOR and others about the importance of mathematics education for individual life cycle income and individual understanding of pension rules and DSB-schemes, though I would tend to emphasize Bildung and self-esteem too. Potentially it might suffice that one reads "Kansrijk onderwijsbeleid" on this, but it may be a while before I would read that myself. (e) CPB would inform KNAW, VOR and institutes for training of teachers, and NRO, that I am a competent researcher and decent person and that my work and person better be protected against misrepresentation and slander. (f) CPB would inform CPC and the network of national planning agencies about this letter and the actions taken. (g) KNAW would inform ALLEA and the other academies of this letter and the actions taken. (h) In all of this, one would cc each other and me.

My suggestion is that the CPB-directorate re-appoints me, likely as advisor, and allows me to complete my analysis on unemployment and poverty, with model exercises and publication as CPB research memorandum under the name of the author. I would have to familiarise me (again) with a relevant model, and be involved in business as usual too, so that also new employees can see the competence and skill both in econometrics and in working with models. My publication would not be a product of the whole CPB but, as usual for this, under the name of the author, but will be embedded in the CPB-tradition, as my analysis in 1990 was. I would favour that there would be a subsequent CPB-report itself, but this depends. There is the awkward issue that my view remains that Van Geest doesn't have the scientific background for being director of the CPB, but apparently others at CPB have accepted the appointment and legally she would appoint me, and in the mean time for all practical purposes the view by the directorate is not relevant for what remains a publication under my name. Whatever this is, I merely want to clarify here that such an appointment of me would not show that Van Geest would be qualified, or that I would be wrong in the observation of lack of qualification for her. Finishing my publication would take some time, and there may be some versions, also depending upon questions by colleagues. For colleagues, there would be optional courses on TP & CPB, DRGTPE, CSBH and VTFD, perhaps including D&S for the

general public taking advantage of accessible texts. The directorate would inform the minister of Economic Affairs and Parliament about this appointment, referring to this letter. I will continue advising for a Parliamentary enquiry, but my publication shouldn't be hindered by such an event. KNAW would start its own enquiry into the censorship in 1990-2015, and a separate enquiry into its own failure to look into this. These enquiries might copy part of such Parliamentary enquiry, but the one would copy from the other anyway.

If the CPB-directorate would not agree on this approach, and doesn't offer a relevant alternative, then KNAW would anyhow proceed with the investigations, and include such rejection as a continuation of the censorship and cover up of the abuse of power w.r.t. my dismissal.

Of this solution approach, it is important to inform the EU, the European Central Bank (ECB), and other national planning agencies. They could already start studying on DRGTPE and CSBH and VTFD and the paper *Money as gold versus money as water*. They would not have the advantage like CPB to have me available in-house, but one can imagine international workshops.

- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2013/07/31/economic-planning-in-europe>
- <https://rwer.wordpress.com/2013/07/02/issue-no-64-of-real-world-economics-review>

There will be more details but above approach seems wise in outline.

I will put this letter on my website at

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-05-17-Letter-to-KNAW-and-CPB.pdf>.

Kind regards,

Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus
Econometrician (Groningen 1982) and teacher of mathematics (Leiden 2008)
Scheveningen

Appendix. Email exchange with J.K. Lenstra w.r.t. KNAW 2009

Date: Sat, 20 Jun 2009

From: Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus wrote

Geachte professor Lenstra,

Ik schreef een boek over het onderwijs in wiskunde:

"Elegance with Substance. Mathematics and its education designed for Ladies and Gentlemen", Dutch University Press, 2009, <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/Index.html>

Mijn conclusie is dat de zaak helemaal vast zit en dat de Tweede Kamer het moet onderzoeken.

Het zou mooi zijn wanneer u deze conclusie kon gaan delen. Indien niet, dan zou ik u willen vragen om een korte reactie welk argument ik dan over het hoofd zou hebben gezien.

PM. Eerder schreef ik een boek over de logica, met de bespreking daarvan in NAW door Richard Gill:

<http://www.nieuwarchief.nl/serie5/pdf/naw5-2008-09-3-217.pdf>

Met vriendelijke groet,

Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus
Econometrist en leraar wiskunde
<http://thomascool.eu>

Naar aanleiding van:

"Wat is goed reken/wiskundeonderwijs? Wat 'moeten' kinderen leren en hoe? Op vrijdagmiddag 25 september organiseert de Nederlandse Vereniging tot Ontwikkeling van het Reken- en wiskundeonderwijs (NVORWO) een studiemiddag in Utrecht. Daar presenteert prof. dr. J.K. Lenstra van de Commissie rekenonderwijs basisschool van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW) de eerste bevindingen. Marlies van der Burg en Marianne Espeldoorn van de Universiteit Utrecht hebben een onderzoek uitgevoerd bij leerlingen en leraren met de vraag hoe zij tegen hun rekenonderwijs aankijken. Meer informatie is te vinden op website www.nvorwo.nl. Aanmelden kan via platform@nvorwo.nl. "

Date: 2009-06-20

At 22:31 2009-06-20, you wrote:

Geachte heer Cool,

Dank voor uw bericht. Onze commissie is druk bezig zijn rapport op te stellen. Wij verwachten met wat concretere conclusies te komen. Ik stel voor dat u ons rapport afwacht en uw bevindingen met de onze vergelijkt. Desgewenst kunnen we daarna het gesprek voortzetten.

Met vriendelijke groet,
Jan Karel Lenstra

Jan Karel Lenstra
CWI -- Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica
P.O. Box 94079
1090 GB Amsterdam, The Netherlands
phone (...)

Date: Sun, 21 Jun 2009

To: Jan Karel Lenstra
From: Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus
Subject: Re: Boek over wiskunde onderwijs

Geachte professor Lenstra,

Hartelijk dank voor uw snelle reactie. Ter vermijding van misverstanden: mijn boek bevat een twintigtal concrete punten. Als opmaat tot de overkoepelende conclusie. Als dat laatste u bij voorbaat al een brug te ver is dan is een suggestie nog naar die subpunten te kijken.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus

Date: July 8 & 11 2014

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2014-07-08-Colignatus-aan-KNAW-LOWI.html>

Bijlage 0. Email-uitwisseling met Jan Karel Lenstra uit 2009

Het KNAW-rapport van Lenstra cs. kwam uit op 4 november 2009, zie dit persbericht bij de KNAW. Eind juni echter maakte ik Lenstra attent op het uitkomen van Elegance with Substance, dat relevant is voor de doelstelling van zijn rapport. Mij is onbekend of men ernaar gekeken heeft, het komt niet voor in de literatuurlijst. Eventueel heeft men ernaar gekeken en gezien dat EWS geen empirische tabellen of toetsen bevat, en het dan terzijde gelegd. Maar EWS bevat wel de empirische constatering van het Probleem, plus een twintigtal concrete punten, en dat alles lijkt me wel degelijk relevant voor het onderzoek van Lenstra. Ik constateer het negeren van onwelgevallige informatie.

Date: Sat, 19 Jul 2014

From: "Jan Karel Lenstra"
To: "Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus"
Cc: "Jan Karel Lenstra", "Arie Korbijn" (KNAW)
Subject: Re: Volledigheidshalve: mijn brief aan KNAW-LOWI t.a.v. collectief wangedrag t.a.v. wetenschappelijk onderzoek naar onderwijs in wiskunde en rekenen

Geachte heer Cool,
Ik verzoek u mijn adres uit uw emaillijst te verwijderen.
Met vriendelijke groet,
Jan Karel Lenstra

Jan Karel Lenstra
Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica
P.O. Box 94079, 1090 GB Amsterdam, The Netherlands
phone (...)

Date: Tue, July 22 2014

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2014-07-22-Aan-KNAW-LOWI-tav-Jan-Karel-Lenstra.html>