

Joep Leerssen is a Dutch comparatist and cultural historian. He is professor of European studies at the University of Amsterdam, where he also holds a Royal Netherlands Academy Research Professorship. He was awarded the Spinozapremie in 2008.

Leerssen studied Comparative literature in Aachen (M.A. 1979) and Anglo-Irish Studies at University College Dublin (M.A. 1980), and received his doctorate from Utrecht University in 1986. He was appointed lecturer in European Studies in Amsterdam in 1986 and was given a professorial chair in the same subject in 1991. In addition, he has held guest professorships and visiting fellowships in Harvard (Erasmus Chair), Cambridge (Magdalene College) and Göttingen. He headed the Huizinga Institute, the Dutch National Research Institute for Cultural History, from 1996 until 2005.

Leerssen has worked in the fields of Irish Studies, imagology and European studies. His main research focus is on the relationship between national (self-)stereotyping and nationalism, and on the historical development of cultural and romantic nationalism in nineteenth-century Europe, using literary texts as a source for the history of ideas. His books *Mere Irish & Fíor-Ghael* (1986, repr. 1996) and *Remembrance and Imagination* (1996) deal with the pre-1800 and 19th-century emergence of an Irish national identity; *Imagology* (co-edited with Manfred Beller, 2007) is a handbook on the literary articulation of stereotypes of national characters; *National Thought in Europe* a survey of the culture-historical growth of nationalism in Europe.

Since 2008 Leerssen is member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Bucharest (2014).

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In 2017 (1 Sept. – 15 Dec.) she was Visiting Research Fellow at Princeton University. Lecturer at many international conferences in Greece, Western and Southeast Europe, USA, Japan and China, she is also member of the editorial board of refereed academic journals and academic societies.

She is author of several books and articles on the teaching of history, the history of historiography, school textbooks, national identity, public history and the history of sports and the Olympic Games. She is also the editor of six workbooks (alternative educational materials) for the teaching of modern and contemporary history in Southeast Europe.