Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: The Frontlines of Epidemic Work: Plague Cleaners in Early Modern Households

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Funder: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Template: Data Management Plan v4.6

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Project abstract:

Who held the hand of a plague patient as they lay dying? Who wiped their brow and comforted them? This project focuses on those who were employed in infected houses during preindustrial epidemics as paid cleaners. It reconstructs their lives and assesses the impact on the households where they served. Did this element of the “epidemic economy” offer disadvantaged people new financial opportunities and avenues for social mobility, or did it instead impose burdens and coercive obligations on those already most vulnerable?

ID: 208771

Start date: 01-09-2026

End date: 31-08-2028

Last modified: 30-07-2026

Grant number / URL: 406.XS.26.02.006

Copyright information:

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The Frontlines of Epidemic Work: Plague Cleaners in Early Modern Households

General

Please tick the following boxes if you agree to act according to the following terms:

- I will check and, if necessary, update my data management plan a minimum of once a year
- I will discuss the data management plan with my research team
- I will answer all questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge

Support in writing a data management plan is available through the faculty Data Stewards. Which research support professional is available for you?

- Data Steward of my own faculty - ESHCC

Scientific research must be conducted in line with existing guidelines on good research practices and integrity. Please tick the boxes if you have read and understand these guidelines and will act accordingly.

- The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (VSNU, 2018)
- The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA, 2023)

Administration and Project Description

1. Provide the details of your project

Project title

The Frontlines of Epidemic Work: Plague Cleaners in Early Modern Households

Project start date as intended

2026-09-01

Project duration in months as intended

24

Funding body (if applicable)

NWO

Grant number (if applicable)

406.XS.26.02.006

Date of DMP Version 1

2026-07-29

Current DMP - Version [if other than version 1]

Question not answered.

Current DMP - Date [if other than version 1]

Question not answered.

2. List the name and affiliation of all members of the research team.
List the researcher responsible for research data management first.
For PhD projects, please indicate the Promotor(s) and/or Daily Supervisor(s) with a (!)

	Name	Email	ORCID	Research Institution
1	Daniel R. Curtis	curtis@eshcc.eur.nl	0000-0001-8355-4153	ESHCC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

3. Briefly summarize the project background and research question(s) to help others understand the purpose for which the data are being collected or created

It is a project that tries to better understand the roles, lives, and status of so-called "plague cleaners" in early modern households (16-18th centuries), and the impact of these workers on the households in which they served. These people were paid to go into domestic houses and perform various care and cleaning tasks when one or more of the residents were infected. The geographical scope is limited to some towns and villages in (what was at the time) the Duchy of Brabant.

4. Specify the research type and briefly describe the methodology, how the data will be collected, and the tools used for data collection, processing and analysis:

The "data" is extracted by using original manuscripts kept in archives - mainly "guardianship accounts". These sources will be accessed by a combination of going physically to the various regional archives in Brabant (NL) and making use of any relevant manuscript that has been digitised. I will transcribe the information directly from the manuscripts, and this will be information that is a combination of quantifiable and qualitative dimensions (names of workers; gender; length of time serving in house; tasks performed; pay and remuneration, etc.). These will be inputted first into excel. At a later phase, if needed, statistical analyses can be performed using SPSS and/or R.

5. Are additional (financial or time) resources required for data management in this project?

- No, I will use the services and resources provided by the EUR

Preparation: Legal Arrangements and Policy

6. With whom will you need to make legal arrangements?

- With nobody / No reason

7. List the agreements that you will initiate and with whom will you make them.

Question not answered.

8. List the agreements or other data management policies that you need to uphold but did not initiate. If you are reusing existing data, list the terms of use under which you may re-use them.

Who	Type	Version and Date
EUR	RDM policy of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)	Version 1.0 [August 14th, 2020]
EUR	Internet and ICT facilities policy	[July 13th, 2021]
NWO	Funding agreement	28/7/2026

9. Do you need to obtain ethical approval for your research project?

- No, my project does not require ethical approval

10. If you have obtained ethical approval, list the reference number

During research: Collecting and analyzing

11. Specify what data you will be collecting and indicate format, estimated size, and whether this is data that you will be generating or existing data that you will be re-using.

Type	Data Classification	Format	Estimated size	Generate or Re-use
Transcribed information from publically accessible archival manuscripts	Internal	.csv	<1GB	Generate

12. Will you be collecting or re-using (sensitive) personal data?

- No – My research does not include human participants

13. If you collect or re-use (sensitive) personal data, how will you protect the privacy of participants?

- Not applicable - I do not collect or re-use personal data

14. Please elaborate on your anonymization/ pseudonymization plans. If you are working with multiple datasets, please specify which datasets will be anonymized and which will be pseudonymized.

Not needed - this is information from the 16th to 18th centuries and not sensitive.

15. Will you be collecting or re-using non-personal sensitive data?

- No

16. Where will you store your data during the project? You can select multiple options.

- EUR SURF Yoda (preferred storage solution for research data)
- EUR OneDrive

18. What hardware and software do you use? Select all applicable options.

- EUR supported software as found in the software catalog
- EUR supported hardware [e.g. @wEURk laptop, @wEURk workstation]

19. If you use private hardware, software, or freeware, please specify what and for what reason:

Question not answered.

20. Are regular backups made of your data?

- Yes, I use only EUR supported tools (as listed in Q18), thus to a limited extent backups are made automatically

21. Who manages access to the data?

- Researcher responsible for research data management

22. Who will have access to the data (during the project)?

- Only researchers as indicated under ‘Administration & Project description’

23. How are you going to make sure your data will be accessible in case of staff changes, illness, etc?

- Other (please specify in the additional information box).

I am the only person on the project. There are no issues around data accessibility. If I am ill, then the project does not continue or is delayed.

24. Have you and your research team agreed on a way to name and order project folders and files?

- Yes - And I have documentation on it

25. Have you and your research team agreed on how to handle versioning of files?

- Yes - And I have documentation on it

Research Publication: Data sharing and re-use

26. What data (and code) will be shared in a research data repository?

- All data (and code) produced in the project

27. Please specify why you are unable to share (all) data (and code)

Question not answered.

28. List the data (and code) that you plan to share in a research data repository. Also list the information / documentation / metadata that you will include to make the data package self-explanatory and re-usable in the future (for other researchers and yourself)

Data	Format	Size
Original transcribed entries	.csv	<1 GB
Meta-data/descriptors. Readme text file (general description of the data, incl. date of collection, selection procedure of participants, tools used to collect the data, etc.)	.txt	<1 GB
Basic calculations	.csv	<1 GB
Code	.py, .R	<1 GB

29. In which repository will you place the metadata, data, and/or code that are associated with your paper?

- Dataverse

30. What metadata standard will you use to document your research?

- DCMI [Dublin Core Metadata Initiative] (Note: Default within the EUR Data Repository)

31. Will you place any restrictions on re-using the data you plan to share?

- No

34. Under what license will you make your data available for re-use?

- Creative commons (e.g. CC0 or CC-BY, please specify in Q.35)

35. Please specify which license

CC0

After research: Archiving

36. You may be obliged to destroy some data before archiving. Do any of such obligations apply to you?

- No

37. List the data and all documentation you will be archiving. These data constitute your archival package.

Data	Format	Size
Original transcribed entries (raw data)	.csv	<1 GB
Meta-data/descriptors. Readme text file (general description of the data, incl. date of collection, selection procedure of participants, tools used to collect the data, etc.)	.txt	<1 GB
Basic calculations (processed data)	.csv.	<1 GB
Data Management Plan	.pdf	<1 GB
Grant application & project description	.pdf	<1 GB

38. Where will you be archiving your data?

- EUR Yoda Vault (EUR Archive) [retention period min. 10 years] --> You have reached the end of the DMP