

Kay Boers, MA is employed as a doctoral researcher and lecturer (AIO-Promovendus) by the [Department of Ancient History and Classical Civilization](#) (History and Art History, Faculty of Humanities) at Utrecht University. He is also a member of the [Utrecht Centre for Medieval Studies](#). He works on various aspects of Late Antique and Early Medieval culture, most prominently: citizenship, spatiality, (cultural) erasure, and rhetorical articulations of violence and victimhood.

His PhD-project, financed by Utrecht University's Faculty of Humanities and the Dutch Research Council (NWO), investigates how Christians in 7<sup>th</sup>-century *Hispania* made use of civic vocabulary to structure heuristic and rhetorical argument, and in particular, explores how this idiom was mobilized to think about the relation between subject wellbeing and the exercise of royal and episcopal authority. His PhD-thesis proposes that within the *discourse community* of the 7th-century church and court, earthly *cives* were imagined as a special group whose variable state of wellbeing functioned as a soundboard to evaluate the exercise of royal and episcopal power, and as a prism through which contemporary events and political tensions could be interpreted, represented and addressed. His project *CIVIS. Citizens, Authority and the Rhetoric of Wellbeing in 7th Century Hispania* is supervised by Prof. dr. Peter Schrijver, Prof. dr. Leonard Rutgers and Dr. Janneke Raaijmakers (†2021), and runs from March 2018 – July 2022.