

PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

*French 'Reason of State' from the Fall of La Rochelle to the Frondes*

*Political Prudence in the Writings of Henri duc de Rohan and Gabriel Naudé*

by Jesper Schaap

1. Political praxis, even the often haphazard politics of 'crisis-management', in the era of the Cardinal-ministers Richelieu and Mazarin largely remained within the bounds of the French monarchical system. The *premier ministres* wielded no unlimited power nor did they draw and implement a blueprint for 'absolute monarchy'.
2. The seventeenth-century French idiom of political prudence, including the family-resemblant terms of *raison d'état* and *intérêt*, was a flexible, pragmatic catchphrase that suited a variety of 'parties' and individuals with as many different interests.
3. Thinkers like Rohan and Naudé do not personify historiographical constructs as militant Protestantism and *libertinage érudit*.
4. A book historical approach is indispensable to the study of intellectual history.
5. Intellectual history is more than the study of concepts and intertextuality; proper contextualization incorporates biographical, bibliographical, social, intellectual and political contexts.
6. Internationalisation and publication pressure distract from the essence of the humanities as narrative sciences: the craft of writing in one's native language and employing the beauty of words to convey interpretations.
7. There is no meaning without history.
8. In the rat-race of the mind everyone is hard of hearing (In de ratrace van de geest is iedereen hardhorend; Hans Verhagen).
9. Music soothes even the savage beast (The Offspring; after Lucan).
10. I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by flex-contracts... (after Allen Ginsberg).
11. Life'll kill ya (Warren Zevon).