

## Proposals

- I. This study shows that Victor Turner's claim (in *Victor Turner and the Construction of Cultural Criticism*, 1990) that writers are individuals on the fringes of the group(s) they live in is valid for soldier-authors, as individually deployed soldiers in the five countries researched are more prone to write books about their deployment experience than colleagues who have been deployed with their own unit (see chapter five).
- II. This study shows that if public relations departments of ministries of defences are interested in getting military autobiographies published with positive plots, they should encourage soldiers to write about their experiences while they are still on active duty (see chapters six and eight).
- III. This study shows, based on quantitative analysis, that Paul Fussell's qualitative claim in *The Great War and Modern Memory* (1975) that military First World War autobiographies predominantly feature disenchantment plots does not apply to contemporary military Afghanistan autobiographies in the five countries researched (see chapter six).
- IV. This study shows, based on quantitative analysis, that Yuval Harari's qualitative claim in *The Ultimate Experience* (2008) that 20th century military autobiographies predominantly feature revelatory plots (disenchantment plot and growth plots together) also applies to contemporary military Afghanistan autobiographies in the five countries researched (see chapter six).
- V. This study shows that contemporary soldier-authors in the five countries researched consider social motives such as recognition and change the most important writing motives, not personal motives such as therapy (see chapter seven).

- VI. One of the additional functions of autobiographies, especially those of common people, is that they give words to the experiences of numerous others who live similar lives, but find it hard to express those experiences to others.
- VII. For military personnel, Maslow's hierarchy of needs is differently organised. Where according to Maslow, safety needs are more fundamental than belonging and esteem, for military personnel team (belonging) and honour (esteem) are more fundamental than their own safety, which they are willing to sacrifice by virtue of their job.
- VIII. Reports of the death of the book have been greatly exaggerated.
- IX. The fact that in 2013 Dutch feminist magazine Opzij chose the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport as the most powerful political woman over the first ever Dutch female Minister of Defence highlights the fact that nowadays the Netherlands is a typical non-warrior country.
- X. Within the Dutch Defence organisation the Netherlands Defence Academy is the unit which has the longest initiation ritual to be fully accepted within a specific position: the socialisation process of writing a PhD thesis for the position of assistant professor.
- XI. The professorial sense of time is different from the doctoral student's sense of time: when a professor gives a doctoral student a five-minute-job it often takes a doctoral student at least two hours, if not two weeks or even two months.