

## Holocaust Research and Network Analysis. Visualizing the Impact of WWII on the Ego Network of Rosey E. Pool (1905-1971)

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“I cannot think of Amsterdam // Without that yellow disgrace // O my dear city, what a bitter hurt // Did hate pour on you!” (Pool 1945:11) When the Dutch Jewish translator Rosey E. Pool (1905-1971) returned from her hiding place in May 1945, readjusting to post Holocaust society proved to be difficult and painful. In no other country in Western Europe such a high number of Jews were killed: 75% of about 140,000 Jews (Griffioen and Zeller 2012:55). Pool’s parents and brother and the majority of her family were murdered in Nazi death camps. Pool felt that “the laughter” of Amsterdam “was extinguished in the gaschambers.” (Pool 1968:233)

A great number of people from her cultural network were killed in camps as well, such as the theater director Max Ehrlich (1892 – Auschwitz, 1944) and musicologist Kurt Singer (1885 – Theresienstadt, 1944). Moreover, Pool lost many friends and acquaintances she knew from the interwar Popular Front movements she had operated in. Some personal contacts included the communist diamond trader Ben Lopez Cardozo (1887 – Amsterdam, 1942), who committed suicide after the yellow badges were enforced. Another acquaintance who fell victim to the Nazis was the socialist politician Henk Sneevliet (1883-1942): he was executed by the Germans for his Communist resistance activities. Rosey Pool’s vanished prewar network forced her to look in a different direction. After 1945 she drastically changed her life, focusing on African American poetry. In 1949 she moved to London, and traveled repeatedly to the US Deep South.

This paper wants to explore the use of social network analysis (SNA) in biographical research through the reconstruction of Pool’s first and second degree contacts. The already mentioned individuals create a starting point for my research to examine Pool’s social and cultural contexts. I will focus on individuals who were, like Pool, active in the *Socialistische Jeugdverbond* (SJV) of the *Onafhankelijke Socialistische Partij* (OSP, 1932-1935), making use of biographies by the late Bart de Cort and other biographical dictionaries (Blom and Van der Steen 2011). Additionally I will focus on individuals from Pool’s resistance group ‘Van Dien,’ that included many leftwing activists with Jewish backgrounds (Braber 1986, 1990). Finally, the German exile group *Theater der Prominenten* will be explored with help of the database of the *Theaterencyclopedie*.

Through visualizations with Gephi of Rosey Pool’s ego network new insights will be gained on the devastating impact of the Holocaust on individual’s lives. These visualizations enable to us look on a meta level at lost histories that was previously not possible. This approach gives insight in the push and pull factors for Holocaust survivors to emigrate (Kushner 2012), from a personal perspective. Finally, this paper will discuss how Humanities scholars can integrate complex and nuanced information with a database structure that requires binary data.

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