Propositions

1. Modern agricultural sciences developed as, and through, a systematic denial of the role, relevance and impact of the nitrogen delivery capacity of soils (this thesis).

2. World War II impacted in a manifold and so far hardly explored way on postwar agricultural development: agricultural modernization materialized as conquest (this thesis)


4. The role of Sicco Mansholt in postwar agrarian development in the Netherlands and in Europe is far more contradictory than assumed in current debates (J. Merriënboer, “Mansholt : een biografie” 2006)

5. Carbon fuelled private transport is a clear expression of mankind’s capacity to reach high levels of irrationality.

6. There is no escape from value issues that are part of concepts and methods at the very core of sciences.

Propositions presented with the doctoral thesis:

“Down to earth”
a historical-sociological analysis of the rise and fall of ‘industrial’ agriculture and of the prospects for the re-rooting of agriculture from the factory to the local farmers and ecology