

# Private partnerships in early modern Antwerp (1621–1791)

Citation for published version (APA):

Naaktgeboren, P. (2024). Private partnerships in early modern Antwerp (1621–1791). [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University, University of Antwerp]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240111pn>

## Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2024

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20240111pn](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20240111pn)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

## General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

[www.umlib.nl/taverne-license](http://www.umlib.nl/taverne-license)

## Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

[repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

## **Propositions**

### **Private partnerships in early modern Antwerp (1621–1791)**

#### **Patrick Naaktgeboren**

1. Each partnership contract was unique in the sense that its content was adapted to geopolitical and socioeconomic trends as well as to the personal context of the partners involved.
2. Contractual freedom was the guiding legal principle in Antwerp customary law and learned literature (the ‘law in books’) that allowed entrepreneurs to create a partnership contract (the ‘law in practice’) within the existing legal framework consisting of mandatory and default rules.
3. Over the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the ‘law in books’ and the ‘law in practice’ diverged due to contractual freedom in combination with external factors and individual motivations.
4. Partnership contracts as such were established not only to make profits and share risks and costs, but also to address socioeconomic reasons related to creating legal security, to transferring and circulating knowledge and skills, and to preventing and resolving conflicts.
5. By means of education, on-the-job training, and experience, entrepreneurs had acquired at least some degree of knowledge with regard to creating partnership contracts and with regard to implementing them in practice.
6. Whereas a notary’s role concerning partnerships was limited to giving advice and registering or certifying partnership contracts that in most cases already existed in privately drafted form, his role concerning conflict management was wider and consisted of acting as a mediator or as a conveyor of information.
7. A model or theoretical framework based on modern legal concepts that is projected onto the past hampers historians in analysing and understanding historical sources.
8. The concept of ‘crisis’, which is often employed in historical studies to denote regions that experienced adverse economic circumstances after major shocks, has through its frequent use in different contexts become diluted in meaning, and its use should therefore be restricted to describing short-term effects on society.
9. Conducting interdisciplinary research that combines different historical strands, which could come into being by means of a collaboration between universities, helps historians investigate a certain topic from different analytical perspectives, thereby deepening historical studies and raising its quality.
10. The past few years have demonstrated that mankind has lost touch with its historical roots and has lost its ability to place events in a historical context. A stronger historical awareness and a sufficient historical knowledge may help people cope adequately with unexpected and unforeseen circumstances.