Applying for an ERC-starting grant

(based on a single case study)

Dr. Tine Van Osselaer
From Brussels to Brussels (and back again)

- 11 September 2012: information-session FWO/FNRS
- 14 October 2014: interview ERC
- 15 September 2015: information-session FWO/FNRS
PI requirements

• Independency
  e.g. cannot highlight publications with promotor; workshops/conferences: initiator, coordinator, editor; invited presentations

• Creativity
  e.g. in previous publications

• Productivity
  e.g. as author, editor
Writing the project

• It takes **time** to write and rewrite
• Get an idea of **scale** of the projects: look at the summaries on the ERC-website
• **Novelty** (& you are the one to do it)
• **High risk/feasibility**
• **Impact**
• **Sound structure** (all sub-projects fit into the larger whole)

• Ask **feedback** from: i.a. EU-office of your university (financial part), colleagues in and outside your field of expertise
Writing my project

“Between saints and celebrities. The devotion and promotion of stigmatics in Europe, c.1800–1950”

(SH6, The study of the human past)

• Interdisciplinary: involve experts from other fields as ‘sounding board’ (workshops and meetings)

• Novelty & importance (the dreaded “so-what?” question)

• Risk: archives/source prospection
Preparing the interview

• My initial approach and what I ended up presenting
  ‘dry’, expert-material → pitch talk,
  (more than a mere summary of the proposal)

• Practice presentation & ask for feedback!
  You only get 10 minutes, so everyone of them counts
What you get

• Time investment: yours equals theirs
• Gender equality
• Your dream job: high-level, innovative research, international scale, a team working on your field of interest
• Credibility
• (and paperwork)