

# ROB RIEMEN

Writer and cultural philosopher  
Founder, President & CEO of the Nexus Institute  
Founder & Editor of *Nexus*, essayistic journal for cultural philosophy

*Curriculum Vitae June 2011*

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## Personal details

*Place of birth* The Netherlands, 18 February 1962

*Education* Master's Degree in Theology, Cum Laude. Tilburg University, 1992

*Married to* Kirsten Walgreen

*Address* Nexus Institute, PO Box 90153, 5000 LE, Tilburg, Netherlands

*Websites* [www.nexus-instituut.nl](http://www.nexus-instituut.nl) & [www.robriemen.nl](http://www.robriemen.nl) (both are in English & Dutch)

*Honours* Officer's Cross, Grand Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria

## Publications

### *Books*

- ❖ *De eeuwige terugkeer van het fascisme*, Amsterdam: Atlas, 2010.  
In The Netherlands over 20.000 copies have been sold. Recently, the pamphlet has been released in France and Croatia.
- ❖ *Nobility of Spirit. A Forgotten Ideal*, New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2008.  
With an introduction by George Steiner. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Published in Brasil, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands (25.000 copies sold, 8<sup>th</sup> edition), Portugal, Romania and Spain. Forthcoming: China, Greece and Israel.

### *Selected Essays published in the Nexus journal (in Dutch)*

- ❖ 'Gustav Mahler's Ultimate Questions on Man, Art and God' *Nexus* 59, 2011
- ❖ 'Superman meets Beethoven' *Nexus* 57, 2011  
Also available in English
- ❖ 'A Passion for Faith, Death, and Freedom' *Nexus* 54, 2009
- ❖ 'Etudes in the Grammar of an Unspoken Language' *Nexus* 50, 2008  
Also available in English
- ❖ 'The Genesis of Nexus' *Nexus* 50, 2008  
Also available in English
- ❖ 'What Is an Educated Man?' *Nexus* 49, 2007
- ❖ 'Classics, Art, and Kitsch' *Nexus* 47, 2007

- ❖ 'Exercise in Beauty' *Nexus* 47, 2006
- ❖ 'The Paradox of Democracy' *Nexus* 43, 2005
- ❖ 'Speaking of Europe' *Nexus* 40, 2005
- ❖ 'Love and Death. A Quest' *Nexus* 29, 2001

## Selected Lectures

- 2012 Forthcoming, lecture for the Nobel Assembly, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden  
*What gives life to life?*
- 2011 Lowlands Festival, Biddinghuizen, The Netherlands  
Over a 1.000 young people listened to *Why have we forgotten what is important in life?*
- Liberation Day Commemoration Lecture, Utrecht University, The Netherlands  
*The Spirit of Resistance*
- L'Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici da Benedetto Croce, Naples, Italy  
*True Greatness*
- Barlaeus, Vossius, Ignatius and 4<sup>th</sup> Gymnasium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*The Ethics of Difference*
- University of Zagreb, Croatia  
*The Eternal Denial of Fascism*
- Tilburg University Society, The Hague, The Netherlands  
*The Ethics of Politics*. Lecture with Ruud Lubbers, Prime Minister 1982 - 1994
- Conaculta. The National Council for Culture and the Arts, Mexico City, Mexico  
Keynote lecture *Literature as a means to Create the Nobility of Spirit*
- 2010 OECD, Mexican Government, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)  
*Building the Future*
- Bard College, Hannah Arendt Center: 'Human Being in an Inhuman Age'  
Final lecture *How Should We Imagine Human Beings in an Inhuman Age?*
- Washington University, Danforth University Centre  
*The Ethics of Literature*
- UNAM Symposium 'What can non-believers believe in? Ethics for Contemporary Society'  
Keynote lecture *A knowledge of the heart. An ethics for non-believers*
- 2009 Book Fair Forum, Oaxaca, Mexico  
*The Function of Literature*
- University of California, Center for Ideas and Society  
*Therapy or Thinking? About Education and Society*
- University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics  
*Faith, Art, and Truth in the Twenty-First Century*

- 2009 University of Bloomington, Indiana  
 Yale University, Slifka Center & Whitney Humanities Center  
 University of Texas, Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Ideas  
*Faith, Art, and Truth in the Twenty-First Century*
- 2008 The Aspens Institute's Festival of Ideas  
*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*
- 2007 The Aspen Institute's Festival of Ideas  
*The Philosopher for President. The Intellectual and the Good Society*
- 2006 The Aspen Institute's Festival of Ideas  
*Kitsch and the Crisis of the West*
- 2005 Juilliard School of Music, New York, series of three lectures  
*Nietzsche Contra Wagner; Thomas Mann's Doctor Faustus and the Ethics of the Artist;*  
*The Unanswered Question: Kitsch or Sacrifice*

## Symposia and Public Debates

- 2011 Institut Néerlandais, Paris, France  
*Un cri pour la culture*
- Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*The New Elite*
- Incubate, Festival for Independent Culture, Tilburg, The Netherlands  
*Why Deny Fascism?*

## Professional Accomplishments

1994 — present **Founder, President & CEO of the Nexus Institute**

The Nexus Institute, founded in 1994 by Rob Riemen, brings together the world's foremost intellectuals, artists, diplomats, politicians, and other decision makers, and has them think and talk about the questions that really matter. How are we to live? How can we shape our future? Can we learn from our past? Which values and ideas are important, and what are their premises?

In doing so, the Nexus Institute places itself at the very centre of the Western cultural and philosophical debate. In the best European humanist tradition, its annual Conferences and Lectures, open to all and visited by over 1000 people, have become Europe's most prestigious platform for informed intellectual debate on the most pressing contemporary issues. The same spirit of tolerance and erudition is upheld in the Nexus Symposia and Masterclasses, in the journal *Nexus*, and in all of the Nexus Institute's publications and activities.

In 2004, the year of its tenth anniversary, the Nexus Institute initiated a cultural debate on European identity during the Dutch presidency of the European Union. Ever since, it has strived to give new impulses to

political leadership by bringing together eminent intellectuals, heads of government, diplomats, economists, and prominent representatives of the cultural world. The Nexus Institute actively pursues its core mission: to stimulate enlightened debate on a European level.

The Nexus Institute has hosted speakers such as Daniel Barenboim, Sonia Gandhi, Jürgen Habermas, Dominique de Villepin, Amartya Sen, Mario Vargas Llosa, Elisabeth Mann Borghese, George Steiner, Susan Sontag, Slavoj Žižek, John Coetzee, Leszek Kolakowski, Claudio Magris, Simon Rattle, Carlo Ginzburg, Richard von Weizsäcker, Robert Hughes, Ismail Serageldin, and many others.

1991 — present

**Founder & Editor of *Nexus* Journal**

The journal *Nexus* was first published in 1991. It is an essayistic journal for cultural philosophy, printed in Dutch, in book form. *Nexus* is issued three times a year and about 200 pages in size. Authors from all over the world are invited to write for the journal, on cultural and philosophical themes. All *Nexus* issues have their own theme, as do the issues published after a Nexus Conference (the proceedings). Also, *Nexus* contains book reviews by experts in the field of the humanities, art, science, and politics. The journal has over 2600 subscribers.

2006

**Co-organiser of the EU-conference *The Sound of Europe* on Mozart's 250th birthday as part of the Austrian EU presidency.**