

# Lezing & gesprek | Das verschwiegene Land

Renate Ahrens over een onbekend Duits-Frans verhaal, 1942-1985

## Veranstaltung des Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

**Datum:** Donnerstag 9 April 2026 um 19:00 Uhr  
**Ort:** Goethe-Institut Niederlande, Herengracht 470, Amsterdam  
**Information:** Voertaal: Engels; aanmelden via [Eventbrite](#)  
**Zugang:** € 5 (incl. 1 drankje) / Gratis voor studenten en Goethe-pashouders

Op 9 april presenteert schrijfster Renate Ahrens haar nieuwe roman *Das verschwiegene Land* in Amsterdam. Het boek neemt de lezer mee naar Hamburg in 1985, waar Andrea verliefd wordt op de Fransman Marcel. Hun relatie komt onder druk te staan wanneer Andrea de verzwegen familiegeschiedenis van haar Franse moeder Yvonne onderzoekt. Werd haar moeder nooit vergeven dat zij tijdens de oorlog - als dwangarbeidster - verliefd werd op een Duitse man, die later Andrea's vader zou worden? Moderatie door Hanna Muehlenhoff (UvA).

*De voertaal is Engels.*

On April 9, the author Renate Ahrens will present her new novel "Das verschwiegene Land" at the Goethe Institut Amsterdam. The novel takes readers to Hamburg in 1985, where Andrea falls in love with Marcel, a Frenchman. Their relationship comes under pressure when Andrea investigates the secretive family history of her French mother, Yvonne. Was her mother ever forgiven for falling in love with a German man during the war, who would later become Andrea's father? Gradually, Andrea realizes that Yvonne's situation was much more complex. A difficult time begins for Marcel and Andrea. Does their relationship change because her mother may have been a collaborator?

## [Tickets](#)

About the speaker

[Renate Ahrens](#), born in Herford (Germany) in 1955, studied French and English literature. After working as a teacher for several years, she began her career as a

freelance writer in 1986. She has written numerous children's books, plays, and novels. In addition, her books have been translated into several languages and have won numerous awards.

The interview is conducted by [Hanna Muehlenhoff](#), lecturer in European Studies at the University of Amsterdam. She deals with issues of security, militarism, and social activism in the European Union and in Europe more broadly.

*The event takes place in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam and the Goethe-Institut Niederlande.*

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