

The 'miraculous' emergence of penal mediation in the Netherlands

***Restorative justice in the context of Dutch pragmatism and
populism***

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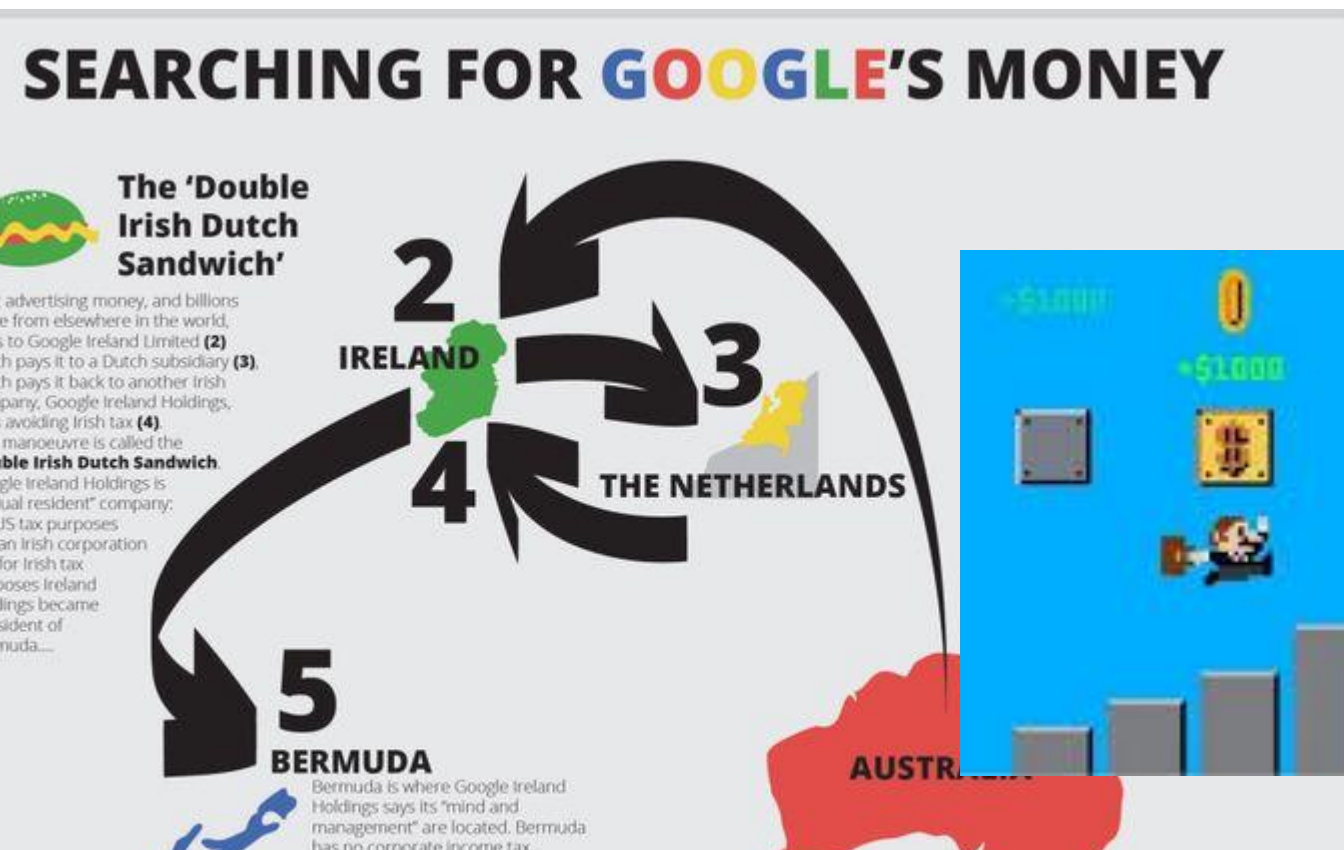
Radboud University Nijmegen

A tolerant nation?



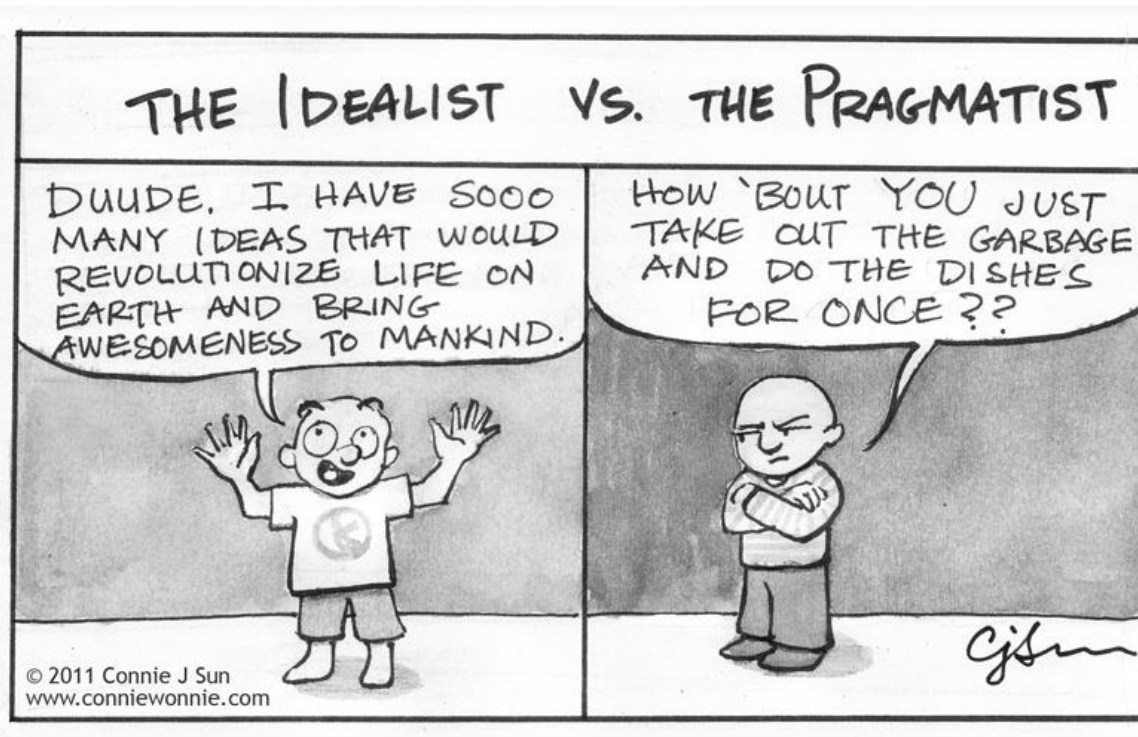
A tolerant nation?

Free trade and the Dutch sandwich



FEEL
THE EXCITEMENT
OF QUICK
REWARDS

iQ options



- Dutch pragmatism
 - Problem solving
 - Primacy of health / harm reduction, not moral orthodoxy
 - Inform and make transparent

**NL: not really a
grassroots democracy!**



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- Referendums: introduced, but used sparsely
- Mayors appointed by the crown
- No juries and lay judges in courts

**Since 2005:
the advent of a
'do it yourself'-society**



- Localism
- Participation
- New roles for professionals: do not steer, but facilitate!

Successful restorative justice schemes



- Halt: 17.000 cases
- Neighbourhood mediation: 12.000 cases
- Victim in Focus: 2000 cases
- ‘Do it yourself conferences’ (Eigen kracht)

The criminal justice elite:

**“Don’t Steal My
Conflicts!”**





I am an Abolitionist!
I glory in the name.



The Dutch criminal justice elite and the *'Louk Hulsman Syndrome'*



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It's a Dutch miracle!



ex-secretary of state
Fred Teeven

The Angry
Citizen



Unlimited victim impact
statements,
and mediation
in criminal law