FACULTAIRE UNIE
FILOSOFIE,
THEOLOGIE EN
RELIGIEWETENSCHAPPEN

RESEARCH REPORTS
2009
Research Institute for Philosophy
director Prof.dr. P.J.J.M. Bakker

The central research topic of the Research Institute for Philosophy is the concept of rationality. Rationality is often seen as a distinctive characteristic of human beings. But what does it mean to be a rational being and how can ‘rationality’ be defined? The systematic study of rationality takes place in the context of the following four research programmes, which interconnect and intersect in various ways.

*Cognition, Interpretation and Context* (Prof. R. van der Sandt)
*The Project of a Hermeneutic Philosophy* (Prof. P. van Haute)
*From Natural Philosophy to Science* (Prof. P. Bakker)
*Practical Philosophy* (Prof. P. van Tongeren)

These four programmes explore different aspects of a range of things that are considered ‘rational’: beliefs, individual actions, and social practices. From what standpoint can we judge the rationality of the beliefs, actions and practices of ourselves and others? Do our categories of reasoning and our standards of truth and consistency enhance or distort our understanding and interpretation of others? What are the foundations of rationality and how has the concept of rationality developed over time?

These questions are addressed in the four research programmes. The first relates to conceptions of belief, cognition and language. It analyses the various ways in which we interpret and understand human behaviour – linguistic and otherwise – in its physical and social context. In the second, the relationship between rationality, meaning and interpretation is examined. The third programme focuses on the emergence of science as the key paradigm of rational thinking in Western Europe, and traces the history of long-term developments and transformations in scientific thinking from its philosophical beginnings. The fourth programme focuses on the concept of practical rationality and its impact on ethics, politics, and religion.

The four research programmes employ a variety of methodological approaches: analytical, hermeneutical, critical, and historical. This makes the Institute one of the few places where a dialogue between people taking these very different approaches is possible. Hence, initiatives that encourage this dialogue are actively promoted.

The Institute’s researchers attach particular value to the works of past thinkers, either as ‘partners’ in an ongoing systematic philosophical discussion or as historical subjects in their own right.

Research facilities
The faculty library, which is integrated in the central humanities library, houses one of the finest collections of books and journals on philosophy – and particularly on the history of philosophy – in the Netherlands, and one of the world’s largest microfilm collections of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts on logic, semantics and natural philosophy.

Collaboration
Individual researchers are members of research schools such as the Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies and the Netherlands School for Research in Practical Philosophy.

The Research Institute for Philosophy has formal cooperative agreements with the Universities of Leuven and Stellenbosch, and the University of Münster, which also participates in the IRUN network. There are similar arrangements with the University of Parma, the University of Pretoria, the
University of Kwazulu Natal, De Paul University (Chicago), the University of Sao Paolo and the Pontificia University of Sao Paolo, as well as the ‘Nederlands-Afrikaanstalig Genootschap voor Wijsbegeerte’.

In addition, members of the research programmes have close contacts with institutions such as the Departments of Philosophy at the Universities of Middlesex and Hertfordshire (UK), Antwerp, Stuttgart and Tübingen, and the Humboldt University in Berlin, the Università degli Studi di Macerata, the Université de Fribourg (Switzerland), Fordham University and Columbia University (New York), Emory University (Atlanta), and the Centre of Excellence ‘History of Mind Research Unit’ at the University of Helsinki.

In 2009, the Institute hosted guest researchers from a number of countries.

Research results

In 2009, five PhD theses were defended, one cum laude: Corien Bary, Aspect in Ancient Greek: a Semantic Analysis of the Aorist and Imperfective. This study provides a new, more insightful analysis of the expression of temporality in language in general and in Ancient Greek in particular. Members of the research programme Cognition, Interpretation and Context have been very successful in obtaining external funding for research projects and network activities. Dr Corien Bary was awarded a Rubicon fellowship, a Veni grant, and a stipend from the Niels Stensen Foundation.

Dr Bart Geurts obtained a project in NWO’s Free Competition in the Humanities programme. Together with colleagues from Lyon and Berlin, he raised funding for an ESF Network called ‘EuroXprag’, which has the aim of fostering interdisciplinary approaches to the pragmatics of natural language through collaborations, workshops, and conferences. Dr Geurts finished a book on so-called ‘quantity implicatures’, which is due to appear with Cambridge University Press. Within the same research programme, Marco van Leeuwen defended his PhD thesis which developed a new theory of embodied and embedded concepts (Thinking Outside The Box).

Dr Chris Buskes, the Institute’s acclaimed Darwin expert, co-published a book on the life, works and intellectual heritage of Charles Darwin (In Darwin’s woorden). His bestseller Évolutionair denken (2006) appeared in a Spanish translation. Prof. Marc Slors organized a series of expert meetings on the relationship between philosophy of mind and psychiatry (in collaboration with the University of Leiden and the VU University Amsterdam), and an international workshop on Narrative, Simulation and Identification (together with Prof. Hans Hoeken of the Centre for Language Studies).

Within the research programme The Project of a Hermeneutic Philosophy, Dr Gert-Jan van der Heiden obtained a Veni grant for a research project on recently developed ontological models of plurality and their implications for political philosophy. He also completed a book entitled The Truth (and Untruth) of Language, which focuses on the various conceptions of language in contemporary continental philosophy. More specifically, his study offers a detailed analysis of the notions of ‘disclosure’ and ‘displacement’ in the works of Heidegger, Ricoeur, and Derrida. Dr Benda Hofmeyr, who is also carrying out a Veni project at the Institute, published a collection of essays on the French philosopher Emmanuel Levinas (Radical Passivity). The book focuses on the ethical significance of Levinas’s idea of ‘radical passivity’ and deals with various criticisms levelled against Levinas’s prioritization of the Other as the cornerstone of ethics.

Within the programme From Natural Philosophy to Science, Annemarie Nooijen defended her PhD thesis on Balthasar Bekker’s book De betoverde weereeld (1691-1693) and its influence on German Enlightenment thought (in collaboration with Prof. G. van Gemert of the Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies). Prof. Paul Bakker delivered his inaugural address (Tabula rasa). He also organized an international conference on Philosophical Psychology in Late-Medieval
Commentaries on Peter Lombard’s Sentences. Prof. Christoph Lüthy co-published a collection of essays (De maakbare mens) analyzing various aspects of the cluster of current developments and public fears that relate to the untranslatable Dutch phrase ‘De maakbare mens’. Looking at the issues involved from the point of view of genetic engineers, human right lawyers, biologists, artificial intelligence specialists, philosophers, historians, and sociologists, this book shows where the fears are well-grounded and where they are imaginary. Alexis Smets, junior researcher in Prof. Hans Thijsse’s NWO project on Visualizing the Invisible, was awarded a research fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. Prof. Thijsse, Prof. Bakker and Dr M. Streijger completed their edition of John Buridan’s commentary on Aristotle’s De generatione et corruptione, a key text in fourteenth-century natural philosophy. Finally, the senior members of the programme successfully applied for a research professorship for Prof. Edith Dudley Sylla (North Carolina State University, USA) in the Royal Academy’s Visiting Professors Programme.

Within the research programme Practical Philosophy two PhD theses were defended: Chiel van den Akker on truth, language and the past (Beweren en Tonen) and Willem van der Kuylen on Kant’s notion of ‘Realrepugnanz’. Dr Bas van Stokkom and Dr Marcel Becker were awarded a short-term project on Citizens as ‘Trustees’ as part of NWO’s research programme Contested Democracy. Dr Evert van der Zweerde completed his exploring study on Islamic Democratic Repertoires. His study demonstrates that the allegedly problematic relationship between Islam and democracy is the result of the contingent intersection of a perceived crisis of democracy, on the one hand, and a rapid process of transformation of the Islamic tradition itself, on the other. Dr Marcel Becker and Prof. Paul van Tongeren published a collection of essays on the ethical significance of literature (Sprekende werken). Dr Marin Terpstra and Dr Inigo Bocken successfully applied for a project in the Royal Academy’s Student Assistants Programme. Ten promising MA students were offered the opportunity to participate as research assistants in a project on Limits and Chances in the Dialogue between Reason and Religion. This project is a joint initiative of the Research Institute for Philosophy and the Research Institute for Religious Studies and Theology.

Finally, members of several research programmes participated in a workshop on Alliances: The Future of Philosophy organized at De Paul University (Chicago) to celebrate the continuing cooperation with the Research Institute for Philosophy.

Societal impact

Members of the Institute regularly participate in forum discussions and contribute to public debate by publishing articles in newspapers, giving talks on the radio and in other media, thus reaching a wider audience than the scientific community alone. 2009 was celebrated as the Year of Darwin. Throughout the year, Dr Chris Buskes was seen in forum discussions, television programmes, newspapers and symposia dedicated to Charles Darwin and his influence.

Dr Evert van der Zweerde acted as commentator on public lectures by Prof. Tariq Ramadan, Prof. Herman Wijffels, and Dr Shahrulk Alam, all organized by Radboud University Nijmegen’s Soeterbeeck Programme. Dr Marcel Becker continued his activities as member of the board of Nijmegen’s Philosophical Café, which aims to bridge the gap between academic philosophical research and a non-academic audience.

Prof. Christoph Lüthy’s book De maakbare mens was launched during a public debate at the Royal Academy and discussed on television, on the radio and in newspapers. Several members of the Institute were involved in a series of evening lectures intended for philosophy teachers in secondary schools on the topic of Rationality and Religion, and gave lectures in secondary schools and at HOVO (Higher Education for the Elderly). Finally, the Institute hosted a highly successful ‘Business Day’
(Bedrijvendag), jointly organized by staff and students and intended to shed light on the role of philosophy in business and government.

Future research
The Institute intends to intensify and expand its cooperation with the Research Institute for Religious Studies and Theology, the Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies and the Centre of Language Studies, in order to reinforce research in the humanities at Radboud University Nijmegen. A few joint multidisciplinary PhD projects have already been developed and many others will follow. Within the Research Institute for Philosophy, several PhD theses have almost been completed and will be defended in 2010, two of them on the basis of international co-tutelle agreements: Miheea Dobre (agreement with the University of Bucharest) and Delphine Bellis (agreement with the University of Paris IV).

Dr Bart Geurts will start his new project on quantity implicatures (Quantity matters: Building a theory of Q-implicature). Dr Corien Bary will start her Veni project on report constructions in Ancient Greek (Reports from the Past), more specifically on the differences between direct and indirect reports, and on the related language-philosophical distinction between ‘mention’ and ‘use’. She will spend a few months at the Department of English and American Studies at Humboldt University (Berlin). Dr Bary, Prof. Rob van der Sandt and Prof. André Lardinois (Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies) will together organize a conference under the title Ancient Greek Meets Modern Semantics. Prof. Marc Slors will co-organize an international conference on The Cartesian Myth of the Ego and the Analytic/Continental Divide with Dr Cees Leijenhorst. The aim of the conference is to combine an analytical approach with an historical approach to the concept of the self. Prof. Slors is planning to organize another workshop on his main research topic: consciousness, brain, and interpretation.

Dr Gert-Jan van der Heiden will start his Veni project on the concept of plurality (Conflicting Pluralities), focusing on recent ontological models of plurality and on the question as to how and why these models leave the post-modern conception of plurality behind. Dr Van der Heiden, Dr Andreea Parapuf and Prof. Ben Vedder will participate in a series of important international colloquia, including the International Hermeneutics Symposium (Freiburg) and the Collegium Phaenomenologicum (Città di Castello). Prof. Philippe van Haute will publish a book (with Dr Tomas Geyskens) on Freud and Lacan (Omnegelijk genieten. Klinische antropologie van de hysterie bij Freud en Lacan). From July to September, he will carry out his research as a Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. A new series of articles for the Nietzsche-Wörterbuch (edited by Prof. Paul van Tongeren) will be published by Wissenschaftsverlag W. de Gruyter (Berlin). Femke Kok will publish a partial edition of Marsilius of Inghen’s commentary on Aristotle’s Metaphysics.

Prof. Paul Bakker will conclude his Vidi project Form of the Body or Ghost in the Machine? by publishing a monograph on late-medieval and Renaissance theories of the relationship between soul, mind and body. From September 2010 to July 2011, he will carry out research at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr Cees Leijenhorst and Prof. Paul Bakker will publish a collection of essays on the development of the science of the soul from the late Middle Ages to the eighteenth century: Psychology and the Other Disciplines.

Prof. Christoph Lüthy will publish two collections of articles: one on scientifically relevant objects in the early modern Low Countries (Silent Messengers, with Sven Dupré, University of Ghent) and one on the Faculty of Science at Radboud University Nijmegen between 1957 and 2007 (The Growth of the Faculty Tree, with Wim Thijsse and Ton Rijken). Finally, Prof. Edith Sylla will supervise
a series of research seminars on late-medieval natural philosophy as part of her visiting professorship.

The MA students involved in the Student Assistants project on Limits and Chances in the Dialogue between Reason and Religion will present their results at a conference to be organized by Dr Marin Terpstra and Dr Inigo Bocken. Dr Terpstra will also organize a series of expert meetings on ethics, politics and religion, and publish a book on democracy and political theology (Democratie als cultus). Members of the research group Repertoires of Democracy, led by Dr Evert van der Zweerde, will publish a volume on Creative Crises of Democracy and organize a workshop in which the results of the project will be made available to a larger audience.

Finally, the 32nd conference of Dutch and Flemish philosophers (Nederlands-Vlaamse Filosofiedag) will be hosted by the Institute in cooperation with Radboud University’s Soeterbeeck Programme.

Center for Ethics
The Center for Ethics organizes conferences, public lectures and trainings for professionals and a range of societal groups. The Center works in close cooperation with the members of the programme Practical Philosophy, helping them to extend their audience and make their expertise productive for society.

Members of the Center for Ethics gave dozens of public lectures and appeared in printed and audiovisual media about a hundred times during 2009. A great deal of work has been invested in the production of an audiovisual instrument, which is nearly completed, that will provide integrity training for civil servants.

Members of the Center for Ethics played an important role in the annual ‘Month of Philosophy’ (April), as well as in the annual ‘Day of Integrity’ organized by the Dutch National Office for Promoting Ethics and Integrity in the Public Sector (BIOS) in Utrecht. In 2010, the Center will organize three conferences: one on moral education (‘Voortreffelijk onderwijs’), one on ‘Public Forgiveness’, and one on the ‘Ethics of Palliative Care’. Drs. Wouter Sandserse will launch a new series of trainings for school directors and teachers. Dr Bas van Stokkom will publish a book on citizenship in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Key Publications


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**Staff**

Prof. P.J.J.M. Bakker (p)
Prof. J.A.M. Bransen (o)
Prof. G.A.M. Groot (e)
Prof. P.I.M.M. van Haute (o)
Prof. C.H. Lüthy (o)
Prof. R.A. van der Sandt (o)
Prof. M.V.P. Slors (o)
Prof. E.D. Sylla (o)
Prof. J.M.M.H. Thijsen (o)
Prof. P.J.M. van Tongeren (o)
Prof. B.H. Vedder (o)
Prof. J.A.F.J. de Visscher (e)
Prof. J.-P. Wils (o)

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Research Institute for Religious Studies and Theology
Director: Prof. Hans Schilderman

Mission
The Research Institute for Religious Studies and Theology (RST) brings together the academic research of the Faculties of Religious Studies and of Theology at Radboud University Nijmegen. Its point of departure is the continuing relevance of religion for present-day societies, with a focus on religions’ presence and interaction in their various social, cultural and political habitats. Its aim is to develop, integrate, facilitate, perform and valorise excellent research in religious studies and theology and to educate and supervise new generations of scholars.

Research focus
The research programme ‘Religions and Transformation in Contexts’ (RATIC) (2007-2012) makes a scientifically and socially relevant contribution to our insight into religious dynamics by focusing on the concept of transformation. While this concept is commonly associated with dynamics, it is seldom accurately defined or operationalized. In the RATIC programme transformation is studied as a process of change in religious and spiritual identities, both at the level of the individual believer and at the collective level of communities and institutions. The programme ‘Religions and Transformation in Contexts’ is carried out by five research groups:

Trajectories of Religiousity (Prof. Gerard Wiegers and Prof. Eric Venbrux)
This programme, which combines comparative religious studies with anthropology of religion, focuses on the transformations of Islam, Asian religions, and new religious movements (including indigenous and local religions) in relationship to the Western world. There is a focus on 1) ritual and religiosity (death rites, pilgrimage, and religious tourism), 2) religion and the arts, 3) religion, conflict, and media, 4) methods and theories of comparative religious studies, and 5) the history of religions.

Reframing Spirituality and Mysticism in Past and Present (Prof. Frans Maas)
This programme starts from the observation that there is growing interest in spirituality and mysticism in contemporary Western societies. Recent social and cultural developments have deeply transformed both socio-cultural manifestations of spirituality and mysticism and awareness of the inner structures of spirituality and mysticism and their relationship to texts, material objects, images, social and economic culture, histories, practices, and theoretical presuppositions.

Biblical Studies, Ancient Judaism, Early Christianity, and Gnosticism (Prof. Ellen van Wolde)
This programme focuses on biblical and extra-biblical texts that mirror religious transformations in social, political, or religious contexts. Research concentrates on interpreting a number of key texts on religious transformations, different levels of interpretation, and re-interpreting early Christian and Jewish texts, as well as their historical, religious and hermeneutical backgrounds.

Transformation of Religion within the Frameworks of Modernity (Prof. Georg Essen)
The aim of this programme is to investigate the effects of social and cultural transformation on the normative quality of religious interpretive systems. It includes the following subjects: 1) the crisis of theism in modernity, 2) science and theology, 3) conflict and cohesion, and 4) chronology and topography. Researchers from the former Heyendaal Institute have joined this research cluster, in which historical and systematic research concentrates on cultural and religious transformation processes against the background of the crisis of theism. It focuses on two topics: ‘Evil, modernity, and the making of tradition’ and ‘The problem of divine and human agency within a scientific world view.’
Religious Identity Transformation in Context (Prof. Chris Hermans)

This research programme develops theories about the transformation of religious identity within a pluralizing and individualizing context that involves various types of interactions between religions. Transformation of religious identity is studied as a continuity or discontinuity of religious identity in time, through adaptation within its current contexts and within an explanatory framework of its antecedents and consequents. The context within which religious identity is transformed includes both intended and unintentional interactions between individuals and groups with different religions and their impact on social cohesion.

In order to sharpen the focus and enhance the profile of this research, the programme was reorganised in the latter half of 2009. From 1 January 2010, there will be a Religious Studies and a Theological research programme at the institute. The number of sub-programmes will be reduced from five to two, while the structure will be aligned with the international academic profiles and the education programmes at the faculties. These changes will result in a more integrated programme that will be better equipped to meet future challenges.

Research facilities

The institute houses special collections in the University Library such as the Egyptological collection of books named after the Nijmegen professor J. M.A. Janssen, which is considered to be one of the richest in the Netherlands, and the collections of the Titus Brandsma Institute, a fine collection of publications on Mysticism and Spirituality. Furthermore, the collections of the Catholic Documentation Centre (Katholieke Documentatie Centrum) are important. In addition to publications, the KDC also preserves audio-visual materials.

Collaboration

The institute participates in the Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER), collaborating with the Theological Faculty of the Catholic University Louvain, the Catholic University of America (Washington, USA), the University of South Africa (UNISA Pretoria, South Africa); the University of Pretoria (South-Africa), the University of Dar-es-Salam (Tanzania), the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Germany), the Faculty of Theology of Dharmaram Vidya Kshetra in Bangalore (India), the University of Heidelberg (Germany), the University of the Philippines in Manila (Philippines) and the Gadja Madah University in Yogyakarta (Indonesia).

International research contacts are maintained in lectures, courses and guest scholarships. The Nijmegen-based institutes related to our two faculties include the Institute of Eastern Christianity (Prof. Teule), the Titus Brandsma Institute (Prof. Waayman), the Nijmegen Institute of Missiology (Prof. Wijsen), and the Centre for Thanatology (Prof. Venbrux). These institutes disseminate and discuss RST research outcomes in their global networks.

Scholars at the Institute have initiated and/or supervised various international research programmes:

- The Euresource Religious Sources of Solidarity programme (Profs. Scheepers and Schilderman): Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt, Fachbereich Gesellschaftswissenschaften (Prof. Rossteutscher), and University of Warwick, Religion and Education Research Unit (Prof. Francis) (11 researchers; budget: €600,000).


The Institute cooperates with the Catholic University of Leuven through joint supervision of PhD students and double degree certificates (2009: Dr Zaccharia and Dr Capucao).

Research results

In 2009, eight dissertations were successfully defended on the basis of the Institutes’ research: seven in the Faculty of Theology (including one cum laude) and one at the Faculty of Religious Studies.
**Trajectories of Religiosity**
Researchers in this cluster studied the unexpected re-emerging relevance of religion to contemporary issues in society by researching the interaction of Islam and modern culture in terms of current developments within Salafism (NWO-funded project; Prof. M. Motzki), the refashioning of Muslim piety in the performing arts (NWO-funded project, Prof. B. van Nieuwkerk), the influence of religion on the struggle between Muslims and Christians in North Maluku in Indonesia (NWO Veni-funded) project (Prof. Herkmans), and on gender discourse in Islam (Dr Sahar Noor, NWO Mozaiek-funded). The renewed significance of religion was also demonstrated in studies of changing mortuary rituals and bereavement (NWO-funded). Additional studies were presented on western reception of ancient Buddhism (Prof. van der Velde) and holistic tendencies in popular religiosity (Prof. Jespers).

**Biblical Studies, Ancient Judaism, Christianity, and Gnosticism**
A breakthrough in this cluster came as the result of applying cognitive linguistics to biblical scholarship. Prof. van Wolde developed a new cognitive theoretical framework and cognitive linguistic method to study culturally embedded concepts and transformations in ancient religious views. She presented conference papers in Ciudad Real, Rome and Atlanta, Georgia. Prof. van der Watt focused on the linguistic basis underlying John’s view of religious and ethical transformation. He presented conference papers in Pretoria, Mainz and Yale. Prof. van Oort studied the transformation of ideas in early Christianity (including Irenaeus) in relationship to Gnostic texts such as the Gospel of Judas.

**Transformation of Religions within the Frameworks of Modernity**
A successful priority within this cluster proved to be the reinterpretation of Christian tradition in light of its contribution to the modern state and its constitution. Prof. Essen analyzed ways in which modern constitutions affirm the secular principles of profane legal orders and handle religious conflicts. He addressed this issue in keynote lectures at international conferences in Berlin, Alexandria, Houston, and Rostock. Prof. van den Brandt studied the transition from communicative memory to historical memory in her research on ‘Witnesses of Theresienstadt, Jews deported from the Netherlands (1943-1945)’, which was funded by the Dutch government (VWS).

**Reframing Spirituality and Mysticism in Past and Present**
Researchers in this cluster invested in an innovative methodology that has been grafted onto a theological epistemology of mystical knowing (‘via negativa’) and is exemplified in a study of Meister Eckhart’s vision. Research on Eastern Christianity focused on the function of orthodoxy in terms of the integration and disintegration of European identity. One of the spin-offs of this research a symposium on the relationship between orthodoxy and human rights. Prof. Teule reported on intercultural and interreligious issues at conferences in Leuven, Baghdad/Erbil, Beirut, Lviv, Bergamo, Vienna, Moscow and Birmingham.

**Religious Identity Transformation and Social Cohesion**
Researchers in this cluster achieved their ambition to clarify the process of eu-functions and dysfunctions of religion for social coherence issues in contemporary society. Profs. Scheepers and Schilderman studied change in religious identity and its consequences for social capital in Europe, with papers presented at conferences in London and Nijmegen. Dr Sterkens and Dr Hadiwitanto studied the religious origins of violence in the Malukan province of Indonesia by clarifying the relationship between religion, antagonistic cultural attitudes and authoritarian networks. Prof. van der Ven presented his international research on human rights and religion at institutes in Manila and Oslo. Prof. Hermans studied the significance of abductive reasoning processes for empirical research.

**Key publications**
Experience and Expectations’ (Being Human: Caught in the Web of Cultures. Humanism in the Age of Globalization, 1). Bielefeld transcript. 145-155.


Societal impact
The Faculty of Religious Studies signed an agreement on 29 September with the Dominican Study Centre for Theology and Society in Amsterdam (DSTS), with the aim of addressing socially and politically engaged audiences that take an interest in religion and social or existential issues. With a similar aim, the Faculties of Theology and Religious Studies participate in the Soeterbeeck programme of the Radboud University Nijmegen.

The RST intends to relate its research to the Faculties’ priorities in Master’s programmes on care, culture and policy. With this in mind, the research group Reframing Spirituality and Mysticism in Past and Present focuses on the topic of ‘societal spirituality.’ It participated in a discussion organized by the KSGV on Mindfulness and Christian prayer (Utrecht and Groningen, 500 participants), and the symposia ‘Perspectives on spirituality’ (Radboud University Nijmegen, 4 March, 120 participants), ‘Levensbeschouwelijke vorming’ of the Thijmgenootschap (Utrecht University, 4 February; 110
participants), and ‘workplace spirituality’ (Katholieke Netwerk / VKMO in Utrecht, 19 September, 90 participants). The chair of the programme ‘Religion and Care’ co-organized a symposium on ‘Spirituality in palliative care’ (Faculty of Religious Studies/UMC Radboud, 28 January, 160 participants).

Several conferences were organized by the research clusters with the aim of disseminating and discussing research results. The Annual Faculty Symposium (25 March, 340 participants) was co-organized by the Centre for Thanatology with ‘changing death rites’ as its topic. On 8 May, the research group led by Prof. Motzki hosted the Conference ‘Dynamics of Islamic Culture’ at Radboud University Nijmegen they. The Heyendaal research programme organized a conference on ‘God and Darwin! Evolution biology and theology of creation in evolution’ on 16 December. Holocaust survivor Fred Schwarz gave a lecture on Holocaust Memorial Day, which was organized by RST.

Five inaugural lectures received broad attention. Prof. van der Vliet (30 January) gave a lecture on the origins of the Coptic language in Egypt. Prof. Müller’s lecture was on the historical ascension of Catharism (19 March). Prof. Schilderman’s lecture on May 15 on the philosophical assumptions in spiritual care was frequented by professional care givers. Prof. van Wolde attracted considerable national and international attention with the new insights in her inaugural lecture on the Creation story in the book of Genesis (9 October). Prof. Van der Velde’s lecture on 10 December on the western enculturation of Buddhism attracted a very large audience.

Future research
In the latter half of 2009 an initiative began to reformulate the research programme and increase the effectiveness of the Institute. New research programme texts have been discussed and edited. As of 1 January 2010, the Institute will have abandoned its former five-part ‘Religion and Transformation in Context’ programme and established complementary programmes for Religious Studies: ‘Dynamics of Religious Change’ and Theology: ‘Quest for God.’

In 2010 an NWO-funded research project entitled ‘Ethno-Religious Conflicts in Indonesia and the Philippines (worth €593,000 involving one postdoc and four PhD researchers) will start. A comparative study funded by the NWO programme on Conflict and Safety, lasting from January 2010 to December 2013, was granted to Profs. Sterkens, Hüsken and Scheepers. It will focus on the influence of ethno-religious identification on support for collective violence in areas of actual and potential conflict in Indonesia (Maluku and Yogyakarta) and the Philippines (Mindanao and Metro-Manila).

With the inclusion of the Department of Islam and Arabic, an excellent research group has joined the Institute. Several high-quality research applications have been submitted for NWO funding (Profs. Motzki and Van Nieuwkerk). The Centre for Thanatology intends to focus future research on a comparison of changing European ways of death, and extend current research on newly emerging rituals to include the celebration of All Souls’ Day. Profs. Nissen and Jespers are planning new research which will compare historical and contemporary forms of new religiosity.

Prof. Hermans is planning to undertake research on intercultural education as part of citizenship education. Applications for research on topics related to interreligious communication have been submitted to EU KP7 and Marie Curie ITN and for educational research to PROO NWO. Contacts have been established with universities in South-Africa (Unisa-Pretoria; Pietermaritzburg) and Indonesia (Universitas Christen Duca Watana, Yogyakarta) to carry out research on religion and conflict.
Staff

Prof. W.P. van den Bercken (e)
Prof. H.G.G.M. Driessen (o)
Prof. G. Essen (o)
Prof. R.L. Grimes (p)
Prof. M.A.C. de Haardt (p)
Prof. C.A.M. Hermans (o)
Prof. A.J.M. van den Hoogen (p)
Prof. F.A. Maas (o)
Prof. H. Motzki (p)
Prof. D.A.T. Müller (o)
Prof. P.J.A. Nissen (p)
Prof. J. van Oort (p)
Prof. J.B.A.M. Schilderman (p)
Prof. H.G.B. Teule (p)
Prof. P.J.C.L. van der Velde (p)
Prof. J.A. van der Ven (p)
Prof. H.J.M. Venbrux (o)
Prof. C.H.M. Versteegh (o)
Prof. J. van der Vliet (e)
Prof. J.G. van der Watt (o)
Prof. G.A. Wiegers (o)
Prof. F.J.S. Wijsen (o)
Prof. J.-P. Wils (o)
Prof. E.J. van Wolde (o)

Tenured

Full Professors 6.6 FTE
Associate Professors 0.8 FTE
Assistant Professors 4.6 FTE
Researchers 1.7 FTE

Non-tenured

Researchers 4.5 FTE
Doctoral candidates 10.1 FTE

Dissertations: 8
Scientific publications: 214
Professional publications: 77

FTE 1st 67.96%
FTE 2nd 20.9%
FTE 3rd 11.14%