ISIS External Ph.D. Program

The Institute for Science, Innovation and Society (ISIS) is one of the Institutes of the Faculty of Science, Radboud University Nijmegen. Our mission is to analyse, assess and improve the societal embedding of science and technology for a sustainable future, through research, education and societal outreach. Developing, conducting and supervising Ph.D. research projects is one of our key objectives. Since 2005, ~40 Ph.D. researchers have successfully finished or are currently conducting their Ph.D. Research at ISIS. Usually, Ph.D. research is funded by funding organisations such as NWO or the EU, but ISIS also hosts and supervises external Ph.D. researchers. We see this as an important strategy for bridging the gap between academia and society and as an opportunity for mutual learning: strengthening the societal relevance of academic knowledge while allowing professionals to deepen their academic insights and skills.

As a rule, external Ph.D. researchers have positions outside academia (for instance in education or policy organisations) and external Ph.D. positions do not involve paid positions or salaries. Yet, there are facilities we can offer to allow candidates to successfully conduct and complete their research, such as:

- Supervision: monthly meetings with supervisory team (supervisor / co-supervisor)
- Assistance in designing and planning the research
- Participation in colloquia and other meetings of the Institute
- Part-time research facilities and access to RU Library facilities
- Participation in conferences and other research activities
- Publication of the Thesis

Examples of external ISIS Ph.D. projects:

- Henk Massink: Blijvend thuis op aarde (Thesis defended in 2014)
- Sander Turnhout: Contribution of lay knowledge to nature conservation (on-going)
- Josefien Oudemunnik: Private land for common benefit (on-going)
- Susan Peeters: Primates as our most proximate others (on-going)
- Irma Arts: The new nature experience: nature films and the environment (on-going)

N.B.: ISIS only facilitates the Ph.D Program. Candidates are solely responsible for achieving the academic level that is needed for doctoral students to graduate and complete the Ph.D Program.

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ISIS Research in outline:

Research approach ISIS

- **Sustainability**: tools for governance
- **The good scientist**: tools for academic education
- **Mutual learning**: Tools for societal debate
- **Genres of the Imagination**: compelling visions / imaginative science
- **Biomimesis**: pervasive technologies
- **Responsibility in the Anthropocene**: Multiple stakeholder dialogues;
  Mutual learning exercises; Hermeneutics of debate;
  Co-creation; Philosophical conversations; CTA

ISIS themes and ISIS supervisors:

- New visions of nature (Riyan van den Born)
- The virtuous professional: research ethics and professional practice (Luca Consoli)
- Legible landscapes: conflicting values, environmental narratives (Martin Drenthen)
- The societal role of universities, sociology and history knowledge (Willem Halffman)
- Science and imagination: science novels, science cinema and imaginative science (Laurens Landeweerd, Hub Zwart)
- Fiction as an educational tool: science as normative profession (Roald Verhoeoff)

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