The Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies (HLCS) is part of the Faculty of Arts. Its main objective is to create a stimulating environment for research in literature and literary theory, cultural studies, history, art history and archaeology. HLCS research is based on a common focus: ‘Europe in a Changing World’. 

Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies
The HLCS assembles, promotes and integrates humanities research from a wide range of disciplines in order to gain a deep understanding of the complexities of the past as well as those of the current state of Europe in a changing world. It focuses its research agenda on two major questions that address a range of key issues in contemporary humanities research and major current societal challenges in a mutually reinforcing way:

1. How and under which conditions do different kinds of loyalties, communities and categories of people emerge and disappear?
2. What do art and creativity mean for people and society?

**Collaboration**

HLCS focuses on establishing European research networks with prominent partners in its areas of expertise.

Prof. André Lardinois is one of the founders and chair of the Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song, which is engaged in the study of archaic Greek lyric, iambic and elegiac poetry and song, with representatives in most European countries as well as in a number of major American universities (Berkeley, Harvard, Stanford and Yale). The aim of this network is to pool the resources of individual scholars, who now often work in isolation, by holding regular meetings, keeping in contact through a network website and a newsletter, and defining topics of common interest within archaic Greek poetry that groups of scholars in different countries can work on together.

Prof. Odin Dekkers and Dr Usha Wilbers are members of the core group of ESPRit, the European Society for Periodical Research, which was founded by periodical researchers from Austria (University of Salzburg), Belgium (University of Ghent), England (University of Salford, Manchester; Manchester Metropolitan University), the Netherlands (Radboud University), Scotland (Edinburgh Napier University), and the United States (New Jersey City University). The aim of the organisation is to bring together the resources of individual scholars from various disciplines who work with periodicals.

**Research facilities**

- The Humaniora Library (155,000 volumes, 15,500 serial volumes, 750 serial subscriptions and 600 manuscripts)
- The Catholic Documentation Centre: archives and publications of Catholic institutions and individuals in the Netherlands, from 1800 to the present (www.ru.nl/kdc)
- The Centre for Art Historical Documentation manages a large collection of visual material and provides services in the field of image research and delivery of image material (www.ru.nl/ckd)
- Kunera: an online database of over 15,000 medieval pilgrim badges and ampullae representing religious and profane subjects (www.kunera.nl)
- BoschDoc: an online database with nearly 1,000 documents on the life and work of Hieronymus Bosch (boschdoc.huygens.knaw.nl)
Prof. Carla van Baalen is one of the founders of the European Information and Research Network on Parliamentary History (EuParl), which connects European research institutions and experts in parliamentary history. The network facilitates the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and promotes comparative studies on the development of parliamentary culture in Europe. Another aim is to help institutions become more visible beyond their national boundaries and to facilitate cooperation between the participating institutions.

Prof. Alicia Montoya and Dr Maaike Koffeman are board members of the Knowledge Centre France-Netherlands, which promotes, compiles and disseminates the results of Dutch research in the field of Franco-Dutch relations. The aim of the centre is to create fruitful, interdisciplinary collaboration within the academic community, as well as visualisation of existing expertise in the area of French-Dutch relations by means of an annual conference and publication of its results. The centre can be consulted whenever specific expertise is needed in the area of current or historical developments in the relationship between France and the Netherlands.

**Research results**

In his PhD dissertation, Coen van Galen put an end to a classic misconception about the Roman age: that only men were considered to be true citizens, while women were seen as mere extensions of their husbands or fathers. In the first century BC, new wedding conditions became popular, which ensured that the wife could be independent of her husband. She could begin an – albeit limited – career, she could divorce her husband, and she had a much better position for negotiation within the marriage. With this research, Van Galen showed that women were much more independent than had previously been thought.

The global study performed by the Bosch Research and Conservation Project (BRCP) has shown that *The Temptation of St. Anthony* (at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, USA) should be attributed to Hieronymus Bosch. The painting was held in storage for decades because it was classified as the work of a pupil or follower of Bosch. The new attribution is a significant addition to the small body of work produced by the famous painter. This discovery was announced by Prof. Jos Koldeweij and Dr Matthijs Ilsink at a press conference in Het Noordbrabants Museum, where a major exhibition of Hieronymus Bosch’s work was held.

Catharina Halkes (1920-2011) was an exceptional figure in the second half of the twentieth century. As well as being one of the first female professors at Radboud University and a church administrator, Halkes was above all a champion of women’s rights and a media personality. This is demonstrated in the biography on Halkes *Ik verwacht iets groots* (I expect great things), written by Prof. Marjet Derks and Annelies van Heist (Emeritus Professor at Tilburg University). Halkes’ research focused on feminist theology, which was based on the principle that the dominant theology has been formulated by men and does not take the female perspective of thinking on faith, church history and exegesis into account. Prof. Halkes put feminist theology in the Netherlands on the agenda and now, with their biography, Profs. Derks and Van Heist have put her on the map.

**Societal impact**

The Institute for Historical, Literary and Cultural Studies targets three groups in society: pupils and teachers at secondary schools, people living in the Nijmegen region, and the general public who are interested in history, culture and literature. The research programme addresses the first group through a large number of lectures for secondary school pupils, which are given at schools or at...
### Key Publications


### Publications Summary

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In 2016 the Bosch Research and Conservation Project (BRCP), which was set up in 2010 by art historian Prof. Jos Koldeweij, came to fruition. The main outcome of the project was the exhibition *Jheronimus Bosch – Visions of genius*, of which Jos Koldeweij was curator, together with Dr Matthijs Ilsink. Koldeweij and Ilsink are also the authors of the catalogue that accompanied the exhibition. Held from 13 February to 8 May in the Noordbrabants Museum in ‘s Hertogenbosch, the exhibition attracted more than 400,000 visitors and was awarded ‘Exhibition of the Year’ by the prestigious British art magazine *Apollo*. The interdisciplinary group of scholars and scientists participating in the BRCP examined all of Bosch’s paintings and his studio, plus the most important works attributed to Bosch in the past (using modern methods). Research results were published in a two-part academic monograph of more than a thousand pages, which describes which work is by Bosch and which is not. Source material on the painter has been made available for anyone who wants to know more about the life and work of the artist in Boschdoc, an online database with nearly 1000 documents. Boschdoc was awarded the Nederlandse Dataprijs 2016 (Dutch Data Award, category humanities and social sciences) for the accessibility and heritage value of the data and
Prof. Jos Koldeweij received the 2016 Radboud Science Award for his research on Jheronimus Bosch.

The publication *Kabinetsformaties 1977-2012* (Formation of new governments 1977-2012) offers an in-depth description and analysis of the formation of the fourteen coalition governments since 1977; it discusses political, procedural and strategic aspects as well as personal relations among the political leaders involved. With this new book, edited by Prof. Carla van Baalen and Dr Alexander van Kessel, the Centre for Parliamentary History (CPG) completes its research on the history of post-war government formations. *Kabinetsformaties 1977-2012* was presented in the Upper House of the Dutch Parliament. In her speech on the occasion of the presentation of ‘*Kabinetsformaties 1977-2012*’, the Chairwoman of the Lower House, Khadija Arib, stated that the CPG’s study on government formations was of great significance and that it was published at the right moment. She further stressed that it is important that the part of Dutch parliamentary history that normally remains backstage has now also been recorded so that lessons can be learned from it.

The University Library possesses around 550 books on architecture dating from the 16th until the 20th century. These are mainly rare books, which are not easy for the general public to access. Architectural historian Dr Jeroen Goudeau selected the most remarkable examples from this rich collection for an exhibition held in Museum Het Valkhof from 23 January to 29 May. The exhibition, which was the result of close collaboration between Goudeau, the University Library and Museum Het Valkhof, was accompanied by a publication that offers a concise yet comprehensive survey of the history of illustrated books on architecture on the basis of the collection in the University Library: *Denken in steen, bouwen op papier. Een kleine geschiedenis van het architectuurboek* (Thinking in stone, building on paper. A brief history of books on architecture).

The ‘Stichting Versterking Herinnering WOII Gelderland’ (Foundation for Reinforcement of Remembrance of WWII in Gelderland), an initiative of Radboud University, Heritage Gelderland and the regional bureau for tourism (Arnhem Nijmegen), under the direction of historian Dr Joost Rosendaal, aims to reveal the connections between historic places and events. The foundation intends to share information and experiences with other organisations, conduct research and develop a provincial heritage quality mark. With the project *Guilty Heritage* the foundation draws attention to buildings and places in the province of Gelderland that were used by Dutch collaborators with the Nazi’s in World War II (in order to reinforce the remembrance of freedom).

**Future research**

Prof. Olivier Hekster was awarded an NWO Vici grant for ‘Traditions of Power in Times of Transition’. In his work on the role of ideology in Roman antiquity, he focuses on the image of Roman emperors: how did these most powerful men in the most successful empire in Western history view themselves and how were they viewed by others? With funding from his Vici grant, Hekster will research the significant role that traditions play in the way in which people present, challenge and accept power. It is especially at times when political systems undergo change, such as in Roman times, that it is important to formulate power in traditional terms. Hekster’s project will explore how this process works, taking Roman history from 50 BC to 565 AD as a reference.

The causes of death of the 700,000 inhabitants of Amsterdam who died between 1854 and 1940 can teach us about the history of our health. Under the guidance of Prof. Angélique Janssens, historical demographers working at the HLCS – together with staff at the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam – have started to fully digitise the registers listing causes of death. Containing
data about so many individuals during such a long period, the registers are a unique source of information. The project is a form of Citizen Science: via the web platform Velehanden.nl (Many hands), volunteers help to collect and digitise the data. The period 1854-1940 was a crucial one in the development of public health. According to the theory of epidemiological transition, a radical shift from deaths caused by contagious diseases to those caused by ageing should be visible in this period. The main question in the project is whether this pattern can be seen in Amsterdam.

Historian Dr Anneleen Arnout has received an NWO Veni grant for her research on the relationship between emotions and the urban environment. Her project ‘Sensitive Cities: Amsterdam, London and Paris (1850-1930)’ investigates the way in which urban space influenced the emotional experience in three metropolises during the period of most intense urbanisation. It examines how transforming urban space elicited and intensified emotional experiences. The main research questions are: 1) what specific emotions did urban citizens associate with what types of places? 2) how did changes caused by the process of urbanisation affect the spectrum of emotions experienced by urban dwellers? and 3) how did these evolving experiences differ among people of different class, race, gender and age?

Carla van Baalen, Professor of Parliamentary History, and Paul Bovend’Eert, Professor of Constitutional Law, have been appointed to the research team that will conduct historical research on the royal purse. The third team member is Professor of Public Administration Mark van Twist. The team, which was appointed by Prime Minister Mark Rutte and is chaired by Prof. Carla van Baalen, has been tasked with conducting historical research into the way the monarch’s income was determined in the period between 1963 and 1973. In this period, the question of the Royal House’s finances was resolved thanks to new legislation which included the Act on Financial Regulations for the Royal House (Act of 22 November 1972, Official Gazette 701). Under its mandate, the research team will perform archival research and conduct interviews with individuals who were involved in the subject being investigated.