Position:
PhD project, 4 years (1.0fte), start date: 1 April 2018. Initially a contract will be given for 12 months, with an extension for the following 36 months on the basis of a positive evaluation.

Title:
Early Roman Tragedy and Ancient Philhellenism (Anchoring Work Package 2)

Salary:
€2,222 to €2,840 gross per month (based on 38 hours a week)

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. A.B. Wessels (UL), Prof. Dr. A.P.M.H. Lardinois (RU)

Organisational unit:
Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities

Job description:
During the transition from Roman Republican literature to Augustan literature there are two competitive models of Roman tradition: a close link to Trojan myth, which is enhanced by politically motivated aetiologies on the Romans as descendants of the Trojan hero Aeneas, and the alleged link to Greek culture. Poets are extremely concerned with anchoring their own traditions in Greek literature. They do so, not only by anchoring their own program, material and style in Greek traditions, but also by re-interpreting the impact and traditions of early Roman literature. The project will explore how our modern view on the very beginnings of Roman literature is influenced by later Roman undertakings to interpret these early poetic productions as mere ‘translations’ of Greek literature. It will hereby focus on Early Roman drama and the role of ancient and modern Philhellenism.

The dramatic texts of Livius Andronicus, Naevius and Ennius have been transmitted in fragments only. The fragments demonstrate a great interest in Trojan myth, however, there is only little evidence that they actually followed Greek ‘models’. Nevertheless ancient as well as modern approaches to read – respectively to reconstruct – these texts are mainly based on the assumption that these dramas were close adaptions of Greek tragedies. The project will explore the role ancient Philhellenism has played in developing this assumption and the techniques employed to promote this.
More information about the Anchoring Innovation research agenda of OIKOS can be found on the OIKOS website (http://www.ru.nl/oikos/anchoring-innovation/), including an article by Ineke Sluiter, entitled “Anchoring Innovation: a Classical Research Agenda” (http://www.ru.nl/oikos/anchoring-innovation/publications/).

Tasks of the PhD candidate will include:
- Completion and defence of a PhD thesis within four years
- Participation in meetings of the project research group(s)
- Presentations of intermediate research results at workshops and conferences
- Participation in the training programme of the Graduate School and Research School

Requirements:
- A (R)MA or MPhil degree in Classics (held by time of appointment)
- Excellent research skills
- A strong cooperative attitude and willingness to engage in collaborative research
- Excellent command of English

Job application:
In order to be considered, applications must include the following information (in the order stated), in one PDF file (not zipped):
- Cover letter
- CV, including contact details of two referees
- Academic transcript
- Research proposal of 1500 words (excluding bibliography and – if appropriate – appendix containing list of sources: together max. two pages A4)
- Copy of relevant degree certificate(s)

Please submit your application to Dr. Roald Dijkstra, the coordinator of the Anchoring programme via anchoring@let.ru.nl before 1 November 2017.

Interviews will take place in the week beginning 4 December 2017. For candidates living abroad interviews may be held via Skype.

More information about this position may be obtained from Prof. Dr. A.B. Wessels (a.b.wessels@hum.leidenuniv.nl).