

Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies

ANNUAL REPORT RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2018

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Annual Report Research Institute PTR 2018

A. Reflection

The research institute of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies (PTR) can be distinguished by a great wealth and diversity of research themes and approaches. The research institute is unique in its composition of different research cultures such as those belonging to the discipline of Theology, Religious studies, Islam Studies, and Philosophy. Furthermore, within these research domains there is a wide variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research objects, theoretical approaches, and research traditions: from public theology and reflection on modernity, to research into brain, cognition and language; from empirical research into contemporary religious conflicts and death rituals, to the historical genealogy of modern science; from historical research into Christian heresies and inquisition practices to the history of Christian Canon Law; from psychoanalysis to the hermeneutics of attestation; from the ethics of the digital era to the politics of distinctions.

In order to stimulate coherence and added value within such a rich research environment, the research institute is organized in five research Centers, which are neither strictly disciplinary nor too disparate. As a result, they are able to facilitate meaningful forms of thematic research cooperation. This organizational structure is one of the outcomes of the mid-term evaluation which showed that the previous ordering of the institute into three multidisciplinary programmes did not lead to effective forms of teamwork. 2018 has been the year in which all five thematic groups have been transformed into profiled Centers. The five Centers are clear organizational units with a coordinator, regular Center meetings, and cooperation between members of the Center with regard to project acquisition, publications, and organization of conferences.

The PTR Research Institute

06-02-2018

Centers	Chairs
Center for the History of Philosophy and Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of Philosophy
Center for Catholic Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic Religious Studies History of Christianity
Center for Cognition, Culture, and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy of Mind and Language Textual Sources of Judaism and Christianity
Center for Religion and Contemporary Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empirical and Practical Religious Studies Comparative Religious Studies Islam Studies
Center for Contemporary European Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamental Philosophy Practical Philosophy

In 2018, PTR intends to improve the acquisition of research projects by appointing an acquisition coordinator who supports the inception and development of projects in cooperation with Radboud Innovation. A project monitoring system has been developed by the research policy officer in order to get better insight into who is developing or submitting projects and what needs arise in this process

for further support. The five Center coordinators, the acquisition coordinator, valorisation coordinator, research policy officer, a PhD representative, and the research director together form the Research Management Team (RMT), which meets regularly.

The RMT is preparing the research assessment that will take place in October 23-25, 2019. The action plan has been approved by the University Board. In the months December 2018 and January 2019, the registration of all research output will be updated. In February, March and April, the five Research Centers will write a narrative about the main research vision, ambition, research output and social impact. The final assessment report will be ready by mid-June 2019.

2018 has seen a further implementation of the data management policy and a data steward has been appointed (see further below). Also, the enhancement of the social impact of research output has been given considerable attention and a new plan for creating knowledge alliances has been developed (see further below). The policy of PhD monitoring of the Graduate School for the Humanities (GSH) was already well developed for regular PhD's and has now also been extended to all external PhD's. By 1-1-2019 all PhD's will follow the GSH admission and monitoring system (see further below).

Given that several of the five Centers are of a rather recent date (being founded after the midterm of 2016) and with an eye to the coming research assessment (October 2019), no major changes have been implemented in 2018 in the research institute's structure. Efforts have been put into the consolidation and strengthening of the existing organization of the five Centers. This policy will be continued in 2019 until the assessment has taken place. We expect that the present organization is viable, although the trend towards larger research units might make it important to reflect on connections between the five Centers and to develop a common research mission and vision at the Institute level.

B. Points for discussion with the University Board

Many fields of research in philosophy and theology are of a fundamental and theoretical nature, have developed in niches of the academic world, and are little 'en vogue' in the world of social sciences and humanities. Researchers are therefore worried about the shrinking possibilities for purely scientific, non-valorisation-linked research.

The highly competitive climate in the Dutch and European research environment and the low chance of being awarded funding result in a waste of research hours being spent on writing proposals. Strengthening the first flow of funds at the expense of the second flow is crucial in order to avoid this unproductive competition.

C. Quality of the research output

Members of the Center for the History of Philosophy and Science (CHPS) have been successful in fostering the internal coherence of the research focus of the Center and the collaboration of its members. To this effect, Paul Bakker and Christoph Lüthy published a strongly interdisciplinary book on image, imagination, and cognition in the period 1500–1800. Frederik Bakker, Antonio Cimino and Elena Nicoli organised an international conference on the contested influence of Hellenistic philosophy on modern thought. In addition to these unifying activities, the members of the Center published a substantial numbers of articles in highly ranked journals and with prestigious international publishers.

The Center for Contemporary European Philosophy (CCEP) brought in an Aspasia for a research project on the intersection of religion and race. The Laura Foundation funded a postdoc project (as a follow-up to a PhD project awarded in 2017) about Nietzsche's thinking. CCEP organized several important international conferences, including *Trauma and testimony* and was strengthened by Tamar Sharon's ERC project in the field of digitilisation, health, and ethics, a project that will collaborate with the Radboud Interdisciplinary Hub for Privacy, Security and Data Ethics (iHub).

The Center for Cognition Culture and Language (CCCL) has further intensified its collaboration with the Donders Institute and Dimece Mental Health Institute. The research group successfully applied for a NIAS-Lorentz Theme Group (NLTH) project on translational neuroscience and psychiatry, together with partners from VUMC, UU and the University of Cagliari. The quality of this year's research output was very high with various articles in renowned A-journals (*Synthese, Mind and Language*) and books with prestigious publishers (OUP). The Center was also awarded a post doc fellowship from the Radboud Excellence Initiative.

The Center for Religion and Contemporary Society was able to publish several refereed articles in Q1 Journals and edited numerous volumes with international partners in prestigious and well-distributed publishers. The research group does pioneering work in the field by registering and accounting for underlying data in national or university archiving services and paid considerable attention to societal impact and knowledge transfer of its scholarly work, specifically for teachers and educational professionals, spiritual counsellors and the cultural sector.

The Center for Catholic Studies (CCS) felt boosted by its clear profile, which fostered collaboration among its researchers, e.g. with a PhD project about the Catholic identity of Radboud University supervised by Christoph Hübenthal and Daniela Müller. As a result of these unifying activities the center was able to expand in terms of fte's and visibility in the international academic community. Besides, CCS contributed to representing the Catholic identity of Radboud University clearly and effectively in a number of publications, e.g. on Titus Brandsma, who was one of its prominent standard bearers epitomizing the Catholic tradition.

D. Societal impact

To achieve societal impact, our research institute aims at different publics. For the general public, an important outlet is, as in previous years, Radboud Reflects, which reaches a large audience with different types of lectures, workshops, and debates, on and outside campus. Several nationally and internationally famous scholars visited Nijmegen, as for instance Daniel Dennett, who received an Honorary Doctorate from Radboud University in 2018, as well as Catherine Keller and Peter Singer. Besides Radboud Reflects, our researchers gave lectures, organised exhibitions and appeared on television, social media, and newspapers on numerous occasions. They participated in societal debates, for instance, on neuroscience, climate change, education, and religion. For instance, Hans Thijssen gave a series of lectures and interviews on the concept of happiness. Carla Rita Palmerino gave a masterclass at the International conference on *Building a Synthetic Cell*. As a spinoff of her

masterclass she gave an interview published on the website of the Basyc project (<http://www.basyc.nl/>). Paul van der Velde successfully suggested Buddhism as a topic for *Zondag with Lubach* and made his appearance on the programme.

To strengthen societal impact on professional publics and to meet recent valorisation conditions for research funding, PTR has invested in structural contacts with societal organisations. For this purpose, researchers have established so-called “knowledge alliances” covering specific societal domains. The alliances are interdisciplinary and may also include researchers of other faculties. In 2018, four alliances have been established with regard to democracy, education, health care, and religious culture. These alliances make concrete offers to the professional public, varying from contract research, post-academic course and training, educational books and materials, and co-operation on research. Amongst the societal partners that participate in our alliances are Leslab publisher, Association of Philosophy teachers, Association of Catholic and Christian schools (Verus), Radboudumc, Dimence Mental Health Center, Department of Penitentiary Institutions, Department for Cultural Heritage, Catholic Church, e.o.

E. Acquisition

Researchers have been very active in applying for subsidies, varying from fellowships, training programs, VENIs, ERC and H2020. In total, it involved 28 applications. Four of these have been definitively allocated (an ERC, a VENI, a contribution to a larger project at ZonMW, and an ITN), 3 of the 11 VENI proposals could be further elaborated, the H2020 project has not yet been definitively rejected and remains on the reserve list. Four applications in the NWO open competition have been submitted as well as an ERC Consolidator Grant. Four more applications are in preparation: an ERC Consolidator Grant, two applications with Marie Curie, and a VIDI. In addition, KASKI conducts research on behalf of societal partners or from the third flow of funds.

F. PhD policy

In 2018, 18 dissertations were defended. 18 new PhD projects (regular and external) have started in 2018. By 1-1-2019 all PhD's - regular and external PhD's - will follow the GSH admission and monitoring system. All candidates have to submit a proposal (similar to the NWO format), which needs to be approved by two supervisors, and a certificate of the level of proficiency in the language in which the dissertation will be written. After admission to the GSH there will be a go / no go assessment (after 14 months for regular PhD's and depending on the time line of the external PhD between 14 months and 2 years) and yearly monitoring meetings (or reports for those external PhD's living abroad). Courses such as Data Management, Scientific Integrity (obligatory and available online for external PhD's) and other courses and training are provided by the GSH.

A manual for new PhD candidates has been written, which the PhD's receive during the GSH Introduction Day. New assessment forms and progress reports for the yearly progress meetings have been improved. Also a guide for the chair of the assessment committee has been designed, describing the procedure and role of the chairman in case of diverging verdicts among the committee members or the admissibility of the dissertation to the defense. This guide will be introduced in 2019.

G. Academic integrity

Scientific integrity is an integral part of the research cultures of each Center and the faculty as a whole. The 2018 'Dutch protocol for Scientific Integrity' (Nederlandse gedragscode wetenschappelijke integriteit) has been discussed in a plenary meeting of the faculty and sent to all researchers. The GSH course Scientific Integrity is obligatory for all PhD's. An online version will be designed and made available in 2019.

Together with the faculty of Arts there is an Ethics Assessment Committee for the Humanities (EACH). EACH assesses the ethics of the faculties' research in which humans are directly or indirectly involved. This applies to a limited part of the faculty's research.

H. Research data management

In the past year, the research institute formulated policy with regard to research data management (RDM), appointed a data steward, and organized a staff meeting on RDM; for PhD's in the Center for Religion in Contemporary Society an instruction meeting was organised. The data steward supported two PhD's when storing their data. The policy will be monitored and evaluated this coming year. On the basis of the research report for 2018, an inventory will be made of whether all researchers from whom this can be expected have registered and filed their datasets and metadata. Individual instruction and advice follow if necessary. In the meantime, all PhDs are required to take a course on RDM and academic integrity. This course will also be available online for external PhDs.

Appendix: key publications

- Cimino, A. (2018). *Enactment, Politics, and Truth: Pauline Themes in Agamben, Badiou, and Heidegger*. New York: Bloomsbury
- Dufourcq, A. (2018). Who/What is Bête? From an Uncanny Word to an Interanimal Ethics. *Environmental Philosophy*. doi: 10.5840/envirophil201851470
- Geurts, B. (2018). Convention and common ground. *Mind & Language*, 33 (2), 115-129. doi: 10.1111/mila.12171
- Ghijzen, H.J.H. (2018). Predictive processing and foundationalism about perception. *Synthese*, 1-19. doi: 10.1007/s11229-018-1715-x
- Gusman, S.W. (2018). To the Nothingnesses Themselves: Husserl's Influence on Sartre's Notion of Nothingness. *Jbsp : Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, 49 (1), 55-70. doi: 10.1080/00071773.2017.1387687
- Haute, P.I.M.M. van (2018). Why Kant Never Mentioned Paedophilia: A Foucaultian Hypothesis. *Philosophy Today*, 62 (3), 888-898.
- Hense, E.H. (2018). Titus Brandsma. *Mystik und Martyrium*. (Schriften d. Forschungsinstituts d. Dt. Provinz der Karmeliten, 2). Münster: Aschendorff.
- Hübenthal, C.H. (2018). Naar een ontologie van de liefde. *Publieke theologie als verlichting van het seculiere*. *Tijdschrift voor Theologie*, 58 (1), 62-79.
- Kregting, J., Scheepers, P.L.H., Vermeer, P. & Hermans, C.A.M. (2018). Why God has left the Netherlands: Explanations for the decline of institutional Christianity in the Netherlands between 1966 and 2015. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 57 (1), 58-79. doi: 10.1111/jssr.12499
- Lüthy, C.H., Swan, C., Bakker, P.J.J.M. & Zittel, C. (Ed.). (2018). *Image, Imagination, and Cognition. Medieval and Early Modern Theory and Practice*. Leiden: Brill. Doi: 10.1163/9789004365742
- Müller, D.A.T. (2018). Kirchenrecht und Menschenrechte. Rechtsgeschichtliche Aspekte einer konfliktreichen Interaktion, in: *Menschenrechte in der katholischen Kirche*, hrsg. M. Baumeister/M. Böhnke/M. Heimbach-Steins, Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, S. 67-79.
- Newen, A. De Bruin, L.C. & Gallagher, S. (2018). *Oxford Handbook of 4^E Cognition*. Oxford: OUP
- Palmerino, C.R. (2018). Discussing What Would Happen: The Role of Thought Experiments in Galileo's Dialogues. *Philosophy of Science*, 85 (5), 906-918. doi: 10.1086/699717
- Topolski, A.R. (2018). The Race-Religion Intersection: A European Contribution to the Critical Philosophy of Race. *Critical Philosophy of Race*, 6 (1), 58-81. doi: 10.5325/critphilrace.6.1.0058
- Van Nieuwkerk, K. (ed.) (2018) *Moving in and out of Islam*. Austin: University of Texas Press.