Dear PhD candidates, research master students, and supervisors,

These weeks we are facing the strangest weeks in the history of the GSH. An intelligent lockdown - so no-one is at the campus and we are all trying to do our best adjusting our private lives and our professional lives to this new reality. Please know that we all (GSH coordinators, research directors and faculty) understand that this is not a normal time, and that it will have some effect on your projects. Of course, we all hope that you will do your job as good as possible, but our first and main concern is your health and well-being.

One of our GSH members shared his experience below with a story of his last visit to the campus last week, a campus which looks like a ghost town right now. Maybe more of you would like to share some experiences of their new work environment now - if you do, please send your story to gsh@ru.nl, and we will publish it in the next newsletter.

For now, we wish you all the best and hope to see you soon again at the university. In the meantime, in the words of our infamous King's song: Hou je veilig!

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Highlights
...and we have a winner!

The Board wishes to congratulate our GSH member Marten van der Meulen, who has won a prestigious fellowship at the Maatschappij der Nederlandse Letterkunde (MNL). Marten is very happy with this fellowship, which gives him the chance to broaden his field of research. The down side is that we will have to miss Marten for a couple of months; he will be doing this research at Leiden University. Let's just hope he will be here for the Christmas party, so we can enjoy his unique singing talent again.

Help wanted

We are in the process of presenting some events online - we hope to come back to you really soon with a limited program of lunch meetings. If you have any ideas for an online GSH event, please contact us via gsh@ru.nl!

My Personal Experience
Written by Habtom Yohannes (PhD candidate of the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies)

Despite my supervisor’s advice not to go if not really necessary, I went to our Erasmus building to collect some books. It was the first time in two weeks that I used the bus and the train. The first surprise started at the bus stop near our residence. The bus was almost 45 minutes late. The bus stop was deserted except for one young girl. She went back home after 20 minutes. I waited. The bus arrived. The driver waved with his hand telling me to take the rear door. The area of the driver is totally isolated, rightly so (see picture). There were only two persons in the bus, one at the front and one at the back. After putting on my gloves, I took my business-card which I had already inserted in “boterhamzakje” to check in.
You can easily choose where you would like to sit, but the fear started to set in: should I sit down or remain standing to avoid any possible contact with anything contaminated by the corona virus... After some hesitation I decided to sit down. But the relaxed way in which we used to sit before Corona was gone during my trip with the bus and the train. You suspect every seat, door and pillar of the invisible enemy. After I arrived at the station, this is what I encountered: an abandoned train station at around 14:30 hours (see picture).

The train was also empty. You could not only choose a chair but even your own compartment. To see so many trains cancelled but also empty, just white announcement boards at the station was really confronting. The same problem occurred with buses at Nijmegen. I arrived around 17:00 hours at Erasmusplein. The same: empty and abandoned. I couldn’t use the entrance of the Library, so I went to our reception. When I told the guard that I only need to collect some books, he allowed me to enter.

I only “met” -from at least 1,50 meter distance- three people. At around 17:45 hours, may be earlier, I heard an announcement: “Het Erasmusgebouw gaat sluiten”... Erasmus building is going to
close." I have never heard such an announcement before at the Erasmus building.

Then the waiting for the bus started at an abandoned bus stop. After I arrived at Nijmegen CS, I had to wait over an hour to get a train to Arnhem, because the train to Utrecht was cancelled. I arrived at home at 21:00 hours. I did not feel at ease at all throughout the whole trip: working with gloves, "boterhamzakjes", keeping distance from the few people you encounter.

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**Virtual coffee corners**

**April**
Weekly On Tuesday 10.00 GSH Zoom "coffee meeting" with all PhDs of the Faculty of Arts organised by Peter

Weekly On Wednesday 14.00 GSH Zoom "coffee meeting" with all PhDs of the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies organised by Nicolet

*Since it is not possible to meet face to face during these times of corona exile, we decided to have virtual coffee corners instead. Nicolet hosts the PTR moment on Wednesdays from 14:00, Peter does the same for FoA on Tuesdays from 10:00. Everybody is welcome to join - if you don't get an invitation, ask your GSH coordinator for the Meeting ID so you can join anyway.*

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**News and information**

**GSH on Facebook**

Most of you will know this, but for those of you who don't: there is a
really nice Facebookpage for the GSH. It is run by fellow PhD candidates, and it's one of the more convenient ways to find notifications of upcoming events, especially from POL & POFT. So please, join this page.

Upcoming PhD defences

Check the upcoming PhD defences of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies here.

We are looking forward to meeting you on the announced events.

All best wishes,

Nicolet and Peter (coordinators of the GSH)

*External PhDs (only those who submit to the GSH protocol) and postdocs are also invited, but in case a course is fully-booked, regular PhDs will go first.*

*The GSH is entitled to cancel a course in case the minimum number of registrations has not been reached.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Links</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Editors Newsletter GSH</td>
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