Annual Report 2018
Radboud Social Cultural Research

A. Reflections and previews

Past year’s accomplishments
In 2018 RSCR proved relatively successful in acquiring funds (PROO, ASPASIA, ZonMw) for doing research. This research funding makes it possible to contract young researchers to further strengthen RSCR. This mainly will take place in 2019. Sadly, in 2018 Associate Professor in Sociology Manfred te Grotenhuis passed away. We will miss his teaching in statistics and his motivation for supervising young scholars. In 2018, RSCR reserved financial resources to attract talented young researcher in three future Post-Doc projects, and realized a Gender & Diversity fund (from ASPASIA) to support female scientists in their academic career. We sincerely hope this will stimulate research in the societal sciences and ultimately will lead to a granting of research proposals. Cooperation of sociological researchers in the intrafaculty initiative on Sports and Exercise resulted in a promising NWA-proposal TRIAL together with researchers from the BSI institute.

State of affair research assessments
For RSCR in 2019 research assessments are scheduled for a) sociology, and b) anthropology and development studies (ADS). Both groups within RSCR have been permitted to conduct a so-called disciplinary assessment with national peer groups, because publication strategies and traditions in these disciplines are rather distinct. It further is seen important to facilitate comparisons within the Dutch context. In 2018 already nationwide meetings for sociology and anthropology and development studies took place to agree/discuss upon the criteria to use in the assessments and to discuss the constellation of the assessment panels. All researchers in RSCR have been obliged to update their CVs and install a scholar.google account to promote visibility and sharing of output. Below specific recommendations and actions are discussed.

The assessment committee in 2012 was very positive on the quality (4.5) of research from the department of sociology. Also, productivity, relevance and viability received high appreciation (4). The committee expressed three main recommendations: 1. to strengthen policy-related work; 2. to increase the department’s visibility of research output in addition to academic articles; and 3. to safeguard sufficient PhD positions. First, next to maintaining a high scientific ambition sociology has increasingly invested in collaboration with societal partners (NIVEL, SCP, NIDI, Mulier Institute) to stimulate policy-related work. Among others, this has resulted in a substantial rise of valorization activities. Moreover, three professors by special appointment are associated with the Sociology department to encourage connectedness with society. Second, sociology scholars managed to publish several book contributions and scientific reports and have been more actively involved in numerous professional publications and valorization activities. Third, a rise of internal and external PhDs is observed in the 2013-2018 period, as is shown in appendix 1, ‘RSCR Research Staff’. Since 2013, 12 PhD students in Sociology successfully defended their thesis. Currently around 14 PhD students are in progress. The 2012 committee also noticed that closer collaboration between sociology and ADS at the level of PhD projects might lead to cross-fertilization. In the 2013-2018 period several projects have been initiated that hold multidisciplinary supervising teams.

The main concern of the 2012 assessment committee of anthropology and development studies (ADS) was its quality (3); productivity (4) and relevance (4.5) were evaluated positively. Especially, the
publication culture of the ADS group needed improvement and more internal coordination between anthropology and development studies was deemed necessary. To deal with recommendations an entirely new and comprehensive research program has been developed on the interface between cultural diversity and inequality. Research now also is more regionally focused (another recommendation). The implementation of this new program was accompanied by a substantial change of staff since 2012; two new professors (Spierenburg, Koch) were installed, and 3 new permanent assistant professorships (De Koning, Koster, Beuving). Importantly, two ERC grants and several NWO grants added to a more inspiring research environment. In 2016, the gender & diversity group has further strengthened (ADS) research with a full professor (Van den Brink) and two assistant professors (Rommes, Dobusch). This inspiring research vision and environment likely ensured vitalization of ADS research. All initiatives have resulted in already 19 ADS PhD students successfully defending their thesis since 2013. Finally, several initiatives have been undertaken to increase exposure of ADS research in international peer-reviewed journals, and collaboration of staff and PhDs on mutual research outputs.

**Vision and mission**

The research vision of RSCR closely relates to developments in the field. National and international research in the social sciences largely focuses on general problems of inequality and cohesion. Research from RSCR contributes to these (inter)national research lines with well received publications in the fields of gender, migration, cultural diversity, religion, social and political attitudes, and educational inequality. RSCR research profits from innovative applications in quantitative research developed in the sociology department, and from theory development, policy research and qualitative field research in the gender & diversity and ADS groups.

**B. Quality Research Output**

Within RSCR, the sociology department strives for publications in international refereed Q1 journals. As a result the majority of articles of sociology staff appears in high-reputed journals. Publication cultures in gender & diversity and anthropology and development studies are somewhat different being that books and book chapters with reputed publishing houses are also highly valued. RSCR output figures (2013-2018) as shown in appendix 2, ‘RSCR Research output’, illustrate a remarkable stability in the publication records of academic research. Publications in refereed international journals vary yearly around 70 (2015=59; 2016=75; 2017=89). In 2018 79 journal publications are registered and 15 book chapters with reputed publishers. This underscores the effectiveness of efforts undertaken by the RSCR management to stimulate publication of articles in international and reputed journals. It also is noteworthy that the number of professional publications has shown a substantial increase after the year 2015. Since that year active policies have been implemented to address valorization of research.

Exemplary research from *sociology* elaborated on whether school characteristics affect girls’ and boys’ educational performance differently (8,500 views). It was found that boys profit more than girls from having a large proportion of girls in school. A *gender and diversity* paper studied recruitment and selection of early-career researchers in academia (discussed on Nature Careers). It was exemplified that three major manifestations of precarity for postdocs relate to the domains of control, contracts, and careers. A special issue of Ethnos edited by scholars from the *Anthropology* group focusses on brokerage. Brokers use their knowledge, skills and authority to bridge gaps between the disadvantaged and power-holders.

**C. Societal Impact**

Important acknowledgements of societal relevance are worthwhile mentioning. Scheepers is an advisor on social statistics for Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Spierings is elected president of the Dutch society for
Women’s Studies, and Spiereburg serves as a member of UNESCO’s International Advisory Council on Biosphere Reserves and as vice-chairwomanship of the Future Earth programme Ecosystem Change and Society. Koster and De Koning initiated an EASA network on Anthropologies of the State. Batenburg was member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Health Management Association (EHMA), and De Koning served as chair of the Dutch Anthropological association, Verbakel is board member of the Dutch Sociological Association, and treasurer of Executive Committee of the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology. Notten served as member of the scientific advisory board of the National Media Passport and Mediawijzer.net, Van den Brink on the advisory board of Atria, Institute on gender equality and women’s history, and Hoekman is appointed president of the European Association for Sociology of Sport. Further, Notten co-organized the Onderwijsresearchdagen (ORD) in Nijmegen, and Kraaykamp co-organized a Conference on Work Attitudes and Values in Post-Crisis Europe at the University of Heidelberg. Spierings participated in the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment on basic incomes (Participatiewet), and Batenburg advised and presented on professionals working in the Dutch healthcare sector both nationally as internationally.

In 2018, Matelksi was awarded the Praemium Erasmianum thesis award for a study on civil society in Myanmar. Post-doc Naeyer won the Radboud Hermesporfijs junior 2018 for her work on social media and sexuality among youngsters, Glas the NSV-Research Master Award 2018 for a thesis on Anti-Americanism, and Busseakers won the Radboud University Thesis award 2018 on the topic of consequences of youth adversity for educational careers. Saharan won the best graduate student paper in the Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography. Finally, Visser is granted the 2019 Jowell-Kaase Early Career Researcher Prize, and was awarded junior teacher of the year 2018 in the social sciences.

Members of RSCR actively found ways to share their knowledge and findings with the wider public in media, blogs and (debate) meetings. Researchers from sociology assembled an interactive website on educational inequality in health related behavior together with the Netherlands Institute of Social Reseach (SCP). This attracted much media attention. Van den Brink provided several invited lectures on diversity in organizations, and Hoekman offered knowledge meetings on sports and facility use (VSG Kennisdag Sport, NOC/NSF). Staff contributed to internet fora like, StukRoodVlees.nl and SocialeVraagstukken.nl. Members of RSCR have been invited by ministries, municipalities, and (international) organizations to provide advice on relevant current policies (on global challenges, discrimination, radicalization, diversity, health care, civil society, and inclusion).

D. Grant proposals

RSCR proved moderately successful in acquiring funds for doing research last year, as is shown in Appendix 4, ‘RSCR Grant proposals’. The Sociology department was successful in acquiring an ASPASIA-Grant and ORA-grant (Verbakel) on informal care, a NRO-PROO-grant on educational inequality (Kraaykamp), and a ZonMw-grant on sport stimulation (Tolsma). Wolbers was succesfull with a Promotiebeurs voor leraren on international student mobility. Rommes from the Gender & Diversity group acquired a ZonMw-proposal granted (2 PhDs) on mental health care among minorities, and a PhD-grant of the Stichting tot Steun VCVGZ. Blommaert recived a grant from “College van de Rechten van de Mens” to investigate discrimination in finding internships by ethnic minority students. Further, a PhD project from the granted NWO-Gravity Grant SCOOP was effectuated in 2018. These successes make it possible to attract young researchers to further strengthen RSCR research in 2019.

E. PhD Policy and Graduation

In 2018 a new PhD Supervision Guideline with best practices is established and implemented (see RSCR website). Especially, internal PhD’s are closely monitored within RSCR. With the start of a PhD project a
so-called ESP (Education and Supervison Plan) is discussed and established. This ESP is adjusted when necessary in yearly evaluation meetings. It further is prescribed that all RSCR PhD projects hold at least two supervisors, a promotor and daily supervisor. RSCR PhD students receive their education within three relevant national graduate schools in sociology, anthropology and development studies and gender studies (Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology, CERES Research School for International development, Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies). Additionally, relevant general courses (teaching, writing) are offered centrally by Radboud University, or specific courses are followed in summer schools. RSCR PhD students are aware of issues dealing with data management and ethics. The changed regulations (GDPR) in 2018 have resulted in renewed attention for these subjects. A yearly monitoring of all PhD projects within RSCR safeguards that problems are detected in time and progress is ensured. Career perspectives are discussed with all PhD students in their supervising teams, predominantly in their final year. Policy for the monitoring of external PhD candidates is still less developed, because of often more personal relationships with a single promotor and the supervising of research that is not uniquely performed at the institute. They are, however, since 2015 also monitored in the yearly assessment of PhD projects within RSCR.

Ever since 2013 the number of PhDs within RSCR has gradually risen; from 9 in 2013, till 24 in 2018. As regards PhD graduation, 2018 has been moderately successful for RSCR with 5 thesis defenses (3 Sociology, 1 ADS and 1 G&D) as outlined in Appendix 3, ‘RSCR PhD Graduations’. This figure however has to be put in the light of a long-term forecast of 6 yearly defenses. For 2019, a number of 8 to 10 defenses is expected.

F. Academic integrity

Within RSCR high standards of academic integrity are maintained. Since 2014, the Institute has established a system that annually archives information related to academic publications. This makes replication and verification possible, and incidentally a security check is carried out (by an external scholar) with respect to fraud, plagiarism and data construction. All researchers from RSCR endorse The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice of VSNU (see RSCR website). Furthermore, in 2017 and 2018 RSCR developed a data protocol that explicitly refers to issues of scientific integrity as regards data handling. RSCR also is familiar with the DSW guidelines with respect to ethics for research in the social sciences. More efforts have to be undertaken to make research staff aware of ethical issues when doing research involving participants. From RSCR, Kraaykamp has been a member of the Committee on Scientific integrity of the Radboud University and Van Driel is a member of the faculty ECSW Ethics committee.

G. Research data management

New legal regulations for data management in GDPR were installed as from May 2018. Within RSCR data management is formalized in a data protocol. This data protocol provides RSCR researchers with the do’s and don’ts of collecting, using, archiving and sharing data information. This document is available for researchers (see RSCR website) and provides them with information about the stages and procedures of data management and should be used by all senior and junior staff of RSCSR. A starting point of this protocol is that every individual researcher is responsible for an adequate, secure and transparent archiving of data, materials and information and publications based on these data. In general the principles of FAIR data management (i.e., data should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) apply to all research data in RSCR. Special attention is paid to secure storage of Personally Identifiable Information and Informed Consent with interviewing. To guide and help RSCR researchers with issues of data management and data collection Eisinga is appointed as the RSCR data officer. He also is an invited
member of a national committee on scientific transparency, data storage and replicability of the DSW (Discipline-overleg Sociale Wetenschappen).