Annual Report 2019
Radboud Social Cultural Research

A. Reflections and previews
Past year’s accomplishments

In 2019 RSCR welcomed the granting of a prestigious NWA-proposal TRIAL in cooperation with researchers from the BSI institute. In this project 4 PhD students and 2 Postdocs work together with motivated staff and external parties to tackle the issue of active living in various life stages. Additionally, funds were acquired from PROO, ODISSEI and ZonMw. This new research funding facilitates attracting young talented scholars to strengthen research at RSCR. This is reflected by an increase of research staff especially among assistant professors and post-doc researchers (see Appendix). In 2019, RSCR further assigned financial resources to contract talented young researchers in three post-doc projects, and developed a Gender & Diversity fund (ASPASIA) to support female scholars in their academic career.

State of affair research assessments

In 2020 research assessments are scheduled for sociology, and anthropology and development studies (ADS). Both groups within RSCR conduct so-called disciplinary assessments with national peer groups, because publication strategies, methodological approaches and traditions in both disciplines are rather distinct. It further is seen important to facilitate comparisons within the Dutch context. In 2018 en 2019, nationwide meetings for sociology and ADS have been scheduled to discuss a disciplinary protocol with standardized criteria to use in the assessments and to discuss the assemblage of the assessment panels. All researchers in RSCR have been stimulated to update their personal résumé and scholar.google account to promote visibility and facilitate the sharing of research output.

The sociology assessment committee in 2012 was very positive on the quality (4.5) of research, and also, productivity, relevance and viability received high appreciation (4). As a reaction to the committee’s recommendations the sociology group has increasingly invested in collaboration with societal partners (NIVEL, SCP, KBA, Mulier Institute) to stimulate policy-related work. Among others, this has resulted in a substantial rise of professional publications, the assignment of two professors by special appointment (NIVEL, KBA) and various valorization activities (media appearances and popular publications). Additionally, a rise of internal and external PhDs is observed in the 2014-2019 period. Currently 11 employed (internal) PhD students are in progress, next to 5 external PhDs. The 2012 committee also noticed that closer collaboration between sociology and ADS at the level of PhD projects might lead to cross-fertilization. Therefore, in the 2013-2018 period multiple PhD 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), whereas productivity (4) and relevance (4.5) were evaluated positively. To deal with recommendations an entirely new and comprehensive research program has been developed on the interface between cultural diversity and inequality. 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 new inspiring research vision and environment likely ensured vitalization of ADS research. Since 2013, it already resulted in 32 ADS PhD students successfully defending their thesis.
-Vision and mission
National and international research in the social and cultural sciences largely focuses on general problems of inequality and cohesion. Research from RSCR contributes to these (inter)national research lines with well received comparative 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 ethnographic and focus group research in the gender & diversity and ADS groups.

B. Discussion point University Board
- Results national assessments sociology and ADS.

C. Quality Research Output
Within RSCR, the sociology department mainly strives for publications in international refereed Q1 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 (2014-2019) illustrate a small rise; the number of articles in refereed journals has increased from 70 in 2014 to 95 in 2019. Next to article publications, contributions to books constitute a substantial part of RSCR output (2019=20). It also is noteworthy that the number of professional publications has grown since 2014, and currently amounts to about 90 publications yearly. These figures show that the encouragement of RSCR policies to address valorization of research pays off.

The following examples substantiate the quality of our research. Scholars from the ADS group published in the American Anthropologist on the notion of ordinary icons in shaping public discourses on ethnic diversity. Ordinary iconic figures offer commonsense frames for understanding the urban landscapes, carve out speaking positions, and come to haunt residents’ sense of self. Researchers from sociology co-edited and contributed to a special issue of the reputed ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences on the transmission of work values. This issue dealt with the question how attitudes toward work are transmitted from parents to youth across a variety of cultural contexts. A gender and diversity article exemplified organization’s diversity networks that support employees with different social identities (women, ethnic minorities, LGBTs, disabled and young people). It thereby provides a better understanding of how diversity networks can contribute to equality in organizations.

D. Societal Impact
Members of RSCR actively shared their knowledge and findings with the wider public in media and blogs like, Faces-of-Science, StukRoodVlees.nl, University of the Netherlands, Sociologie Magazine 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). Van den Bogert developed a toolbox to stimulate discussion on diversity in secondary education, Van den Brink provided several invited lectures on diversity in organizations and was co-author of OCW’s ‘Bedrijvenmonitor 2019’, and Hoekman offered knowledge meetings on sports and facility use. In 2019, Kinsbergen ranked 79 in the list most influential actors in Dutch philanthropy, Visser was granted the Jowell-Kaase Early Career Researcher Prize, Naezer won the Radboud Hermesdorprijs junior and the Praemium Erasmianum thesis award for her study on youth, social media and sexuality. Van den Bogert won the Boymansprize for best Phd-thesis on sport and leisure.

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 Spierenburg 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 and organized its first conference. 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 the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology. Van den Brink serves on the advisory board of Atria, Institute on gender equality and women’s history, and Hoekman is president of the European Association for Sociology of Sport. Spierings and Tolsma participated in policy research for the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs on basic incomes (Participatiewet).

E. Grant proposals
RSCR proved especially successful in acquiring a NWA-grant in cooperation with BSI-researchers on active living (1.7 million Euro). The Sociology department further was pleased with an NRO-PROO-grant on educational inequality (Kraaykamp), and a NWO-NRO grant Werkplaats Onderwijskansen (Wolbers-Van Hek). Tolsma and Spierings received a subsidy from the ministry of social affairs to investigate processes of “inburgering”. Both Verbakel and Hendriks were awarded a grant from ODISSEI for data collection, and Andre and Tolsma were co-initiators of successful interfaculty initiatives (WORKLIFE and RUNOMI). Van den Brink cooperated in two successful projects on inclusion and gender quota financed by KNAW-Young Academy and Ministry of Education and Science. Koster hosted a professor from Aberdeen financed by a grant of the Radboud Excellence Initiative.

F. PhD Policy and Graduation
The number of PhDs within RSCR gradually increased; from 12 in 2013, till 26 in 2019. As regards, PhD graduation, 2019 has been rather successful for RSCR with 9 thesis defenses (3 Sociology, 6 ADS). This figure has to be put in the light of a long-term forecast of 6 yearly defenses.

Employed internal PhD’s are closely monitored within RSCR with a yearly inventory. When starting a PhD project a so-called ESP (Education and Supervision Plan) is discussed and established. This ESP may be adjusted in yearly evaluation meetings. It further is prescribed that all RSCR PhD projects hold at least two supervisors, a promotor and daily supervisor. A PhD Supervision Guideline with best practices is established and implemented (see RSCR website). RSCR PhD students receive their education within three 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 courses (teaching, writing) are offered centrally by Radboud University, or specific courses are followed in summer schools. A yearly monitoring of all RSCR PhD projects 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. Policies for the monitoring of external PhD candidates is still less developed, because most have more personal relationships with a promotor and the supervising of research takes not uniquely places at the institute. They are, however, also monitored in the yearly assessment of PhD project.

G. Academic integrity
Within RSCR high standards of academic integrity are maintained. Since 2014, the Institute has established a system that annually archives information of academic publications in so-called publication packages. 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 and research staff is increasingly aware of ethical issues when doing research involving participants. From RSCR, Tonnaer is a member of the faculty ECSW Ethics committee.

H. Research data management

Legal regulations for data management in GDPR were installed as from May 2018. Within RSCR data management regulations are 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. 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. In general the principles of FAIR data management (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 Eisinga is appointed as RSCR data officer. He is an invited member of a national committee on scientific transparency, data storage and replicability of the DSW (Discipline-overleg Sociale Wetenschappen).