

## Governance and integrity Department

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Bestuur en Integriteit (Governance and integrity)</b>
<b>Supervisors</b>	Prof. dr. Menno Hurenkamp Prof. dr. Henk den Uijl
<b>Field of Research</b>	Governance, professionalism, practical wisdom
<b>Description</b> (max 150 words)	<p>What is the role of civil servants and bureaucracy in democracies and constitutional states subject to democratic erosion? The question of good policy is after all a political question. The traditional Weberian conception of bureaucracy posits that the civil servant, unlike the politician, does not engage in this struggle. Yet, when the concept <i>practical wisdom</i> is taken seriously, the actions of the civil servant cannot be devoid of moral dimensions or free of judgment. Bureaucracy must make politics possible, but simultaneously carries its own moral responsibility. How?</p> <p>What for one needed, is examining the relationship between public administration and civil society, particularly those organizations charged with public service provision, such as for instance healthcare and education. Both government-led steering and internal organizational practices increasingly seek answers about what constitutes good care or good education in general values and norms, which may conflict with what is needed in practice. There is a desire to gain control over practice, yet in seeking such control, the <i>logic of practice</i> may be overlooked. Good care or good education often arises precisely from applying the norm creatively or by deviating from it.</p>
<b>Examples of research questions</b> (max 100 words)	<p>How do civil servants or professionals in the public sector negotiate their moral responsibilities, when democratic norms are under pressure?</p> <p>What can be a normative foundation for understanding the moral responsibility of civil servants, that simultaneously recognizes the primacy of politics? What does the primacy of politics imply for civil servants when democratic erosion occurs?</p> <p>How do civil servants or professionals in the public sector perceive the boundary between “neutral” administration</p>

	<p>and political involvement, when democratic erosion increases the (moral) stakes of their work?</p> <p>How does practical wisdom shape policy outcomes? What strategies help frontline or policy professionals to mobilize practical knowledge against so called performance metrics and other protocols?</p> <p>When do organizational structures enable (or constrain) moral judgment and moral courage among civil servants or professionals in the public sector?</p> <p>How do practitioners experience tensions between top-down normative frameworks (“good care”, “good education”) and the situational, relational logic of daily practice?</p> <p>When do “everyday practices” within professional organisations unintentionally contribute to democratic erosion?</p>
<b>Place for</b>	2 or 3 external PhD students
<b>Contact and information</b>	<a href="mailto:m.hurenkamp@uvh.nl">m.hurenkamp@uvh.nl</a>