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Field of Research	Psychedelic Humanities
UvH Research Theme	Health and Welfare
Description (max 150 words)	Over the past two decades, there has been talk of a “psychedelic renaissance” in the scientific research into the clinical application of psychoactive substances such as psilocybin, MDMA, ketamine, mescaline, LSD, and DMT. MDMA has proven to be beneficial for the treatment of PTSD (Mitchell 2021), psilocybin and ketamine appear to have a high potential for alleviating depression (Carhart-Harris 2018), and LSD might aid in end-of-life acceptance and substance addiction such as alcoholism (Krebs and Johansen 2012). Following positive clinical studies, there has also been a cultural revival of interest in these substances. New health start-ups are emerging rapidly, with sometimes extraordinary promises, but not necessarily backed by science. Psychedelics are rebranded and commodified with promises of improved mental health and better living. An entire new cultural field is emerging: from hippies to capitalists, from enthusiasts to critics, from mystics to therapists, and from micro-dosing to mycology.
Examples of research questions (max 100 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What methodologies can the psychedelic humanities develop to adequately study the cultural and scientific phenomenon of the “psychedelic revival”?</li> <li>- Are these “medicines”, or rather “religious sacraments”?</li> <li>- Are they spiritual tools or medical tools?</li> <li>- What about the recreative culture of psychedelics?</li> <li>- What does the “psychedelic revival” tell us about our time? - How does it relate to the ecological crisis?</li> <li>- To what extent are orientalism and scientific positivism still defining the field?</li> </ul>
Place for	1 external PhD students
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