

ANNUAL REVIEW
2018

UvH | UNIVERSITY
OF HUMANISTIC
STUDIES



FOREWORD

At the University of Humanistic Studies, more than a hundred staff members are engaged every day in delivering first-rate education and research. We do so with heart and soul, inspired by our shared mission of contributing to a humane and caring society in which everyone can lead a meaningful life. This brochure gives an impression of our activities in the year 2018 – a year that I look back on with pride. I thank our staff and students and the many partners that we had the privilege to work with.

Rector Professor Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders



Photo: Arnaud Mooij

OPENING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR



“Education in our schools is not merely a duty of the state, but a responsibility of society at large”, thus said the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media, Arie Slob, at our Opening of the Academic Year. The festive event addressed the aspirations and limits of education in schools and was organised by our new professor of Education, Doret de Ruyter, and her predecessor, Wiel Veugelers.

Photo: Lilian van Rooij

COLLABORATING WITH PRACTITIONERS



The University of Humanistic Studies regularly collaborates closely with people and organisations in the field. We have a special agreement with a number of societal partners to jointly develop research projects. As an example, in 2018 we concluded a covenant with Arq, an expertise group dedicated to coping with traumas. We also concluded a covenant with VIAA University of Applied Sciences to strengthen our collaboration in research and education in the practical fields of care, wellbeing and the education sector. (The photograph shows Jan-Wilke Reerds of Arq with rector Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders.)

Photo: Arnaud Mooij

WORKING VISIT TO LITHUANIA

A joint delegation of the Dutch Humanist League (Humanistisch Verbond) and the University of Humanistic Studies visited Dutch soldiers stationed in Lithuania, to gain a first-hand understanding of the work performed by humanist chaplains. Elisabeth van Oostrum, the Humanist League’s portfolio holder of the humanist chaplaincy, explains: “There is so much going on behind the scenes to guarantee international security, much of which we are hardly aware of.”



Photo: Erwin Kamp

EDUCATION



Photo: Gerard Linde

On 1 October 2018, 553 students were enrolled in the university's Bachelor's and Master's programmes of Humanistic Studies, and Care Ethics and Policy. At the core of our education is the academic training and personal development of professionals who are equipped to address existential and ethical questions in a wide variety of practical fields.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Our graduate school offers a four year PhD programme with a special focus on research into and on behalf of professional practices. In 2018, 81 participants received supervision. 12 PhD students defended their dissertation.

EXCELLENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME



Based on the results of the 2018 National Students' Survey, the Master programme of Care Ethics and Policy was predicated as 'excellent' by the Higher Education guide. The results of the survey showed that students at the University of Humanistic Studies were very satisfied overall with the education programmes. For 12 of the 17 theme scores, the university was again awarded scores that were significantly higher than the national average, with almost all scores higher than 3.5 on a 5-point scale. Student satisfaction is higher than average with regard to important aspects of education such as the content of the programme, preparation for the professional career, the level of challenge in the programme, the size of groups, study supervision and lecturers.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT SOUTH AFRICA

In the summer, Bachelor students participated in an international exchange programme at South Africa's University of the Free State. During the Global Leadership Summit, they exchanged ideas and experiences with respect to diversity, racism, integration and social justice in higher education. The students participated in a diverse programme with student delegations from the University of the Free State and from 15 other universities in the United States, Europe and Asia.



Photo: Caroline Suransky



Photo: Erwin Kamp

CELEBRANT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In 2018, 20 students started the post-doctoral Celebrant education programme. This programme is for professional workers wishing to study and specialise in designing and conducting ritual practices.

INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES ON EDUCATION

The University coordinates an Erasmus Strategic Partnership on education and intercultural citizenship for Master and PhD-students from all over Europe. The programme is called 'Education for Democratic Intercultural Citizenship Education', or EDIC+. It is a collaboration of 7 universities from Europe and the main goal is to establish a platform for young educators and researchers from different parts of Europe to work and learn together. In 2018 students participated in programmes in Utrecht, Thessaloniki, Helsinki (on the photo a visit to a museum) and Tallinn.



Photo: Danielle Drenth



Photo: Lilian van Rooij

INCLUSION PROGRAMME

The University of Humanistic Studies collaborates with Utrecht University in the so-called Inclusion programme, aimed at students with refugee backgrounds who are currently 'on hold' in emergency shelters, refugee centres or in their new homes.

It offers newcomers the opportunity to participate in all kinds of courses, cost-free. Thirteen refugee students participated in the English-language Bachelor and Master's courses at our university.

ERASMUS PRIZE WINNER BARBARA EHRENREICH MEETS OUR STUDENTS

The American author and political activist Barbara Ehrenreich, who won this year's prestigious Erasmus Prize, visited Utrecht in November. Students asked her about her oeuvre and the alarming state of her home country. They discussed the growing gap between rich and poor, the political division, the #MeToo movement, and the treacherous nature of the American dream and positive thinking.



Photo: Ineke Oostveen

FACTS AND FIGURES

STUDENTS

(1 October 2018)

Bachelor students	224
First year bachelor students	76
Master students	217
Premaster students	112
PhD students graduate school	81

DIPLOMAS

(31 December 2018)

Number of Bachelor and Master degrees	106
Number of Doctorate degrees	12

STAFF

(31 December 2018)

Employees	125	(77.8 FTE)
Academic staff	73	(50 FTE)
Professors	19	(8.1 FTE)
<i>of which 47% male and 53% female</i>		
Student assistants	20	(5.2 FTE)

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



Photo: Jos Kuklewski

Our research programme *A Meaningful Life in a Just and Caring Society* centres on two concerns:

- How to deal with the tension between realising human potential and acknowledging human vulnerability?
- How to deal with the tension between the scope for human flourishing and moral agency, and our conditioning by social, cultural and political structures?

PUBLICATIONS

In 2018, we had 20 FTE available for research. There were 103 scientific publications and 53 publications for professionals and a more general public. Researchers Thomas Kampen and Jasmijn Slootjes received the Best paper Award from the International Society for Third-Sector Research for their article

BOOK ON WELFARE STATE REFORM

In September, a research team headed by professors Evelien Tonkens (UvH) and Jan Willem Duyvendak (University of Amsterdam) presented the book *De verhuizing van de verzorgingsstaat* ('The relocation of the welfare state'). The book is one of the results of a four-year research project into the implications of recent reforms in long-term care, youth care and reintegration in The Netherlands. They conclude that on the one hand, the proximity and more integrated services of social workers in 'neighborhood teams' improve the quality of care and support. On the other hand, mainly due to the stress on self-reliance, the reforms have negative implications for democracy, professionalism and solidarity.



NATIONAL LECTURE ON LONELINESS

For people who feel lonely, volunteers can offer types of assistance for which professionals simply have too little time. It is important that we make sure that they can continue to do so. This was the message that Professor Anja Machielse, endowed Professor Empowerment of Vulnerable Older Adults, brought to the National Lecture on Loneliness. The event was attended by Queen Máxima.



Photo: Theo Scholten, driejuni.nl

RESEARCH INTO CHAPLAINCY IN FAMILY DOCTOR SETTINGS

This year, 6 grant applications were awarded. One of these is for a three-year study into spiritual care in the primary healthcare setting, in collaboration with VIAA in Zwolle, headed by Professor Carlo Leget and funded by ZonMW. Many patients visit their family doctor with complaints that actually call for an in-depth conversation. How can the family doctor determine which care is required and which professional is best suited to provide that care? The research is conducted at local family doctor practices in Utrecht, Amsterdam and Rotterdam who are already seeking to incorporate attention for matters of meaning in primary healthcare.



Photo: CoCoost, Nationale Beeldbank

Photo: Michael Kooren



LOOKING AFTER DIFFERENCE

Enabling people to take control is an important ideal in care practices. Yet in intellectual disability care, dependency is not necessarily objectionable; in fact, it is inevitable, as support is part of daily life. According to research by the University, dependency only becomes a problem if it is paired with invisibility, powerlessness or inequality. Researcher Simon van der Weele presented the report *De kunst van ambachtelijke afstemming* ('The art of artisanal tinkering') to Minister of Public Health Hugo de Jonge. The photo exhibition *Oog voor Anders* ('Looking After Difference') was part of the project.

LIVING IN TIMES OF ACCELERATION

Photo: Daan de Jager



Stress, burnout and alienation: according to the well-known philosopher and sociologist Hartmut Rosa, these are typical symptoms of our increasingly rapid way of life. In his essay *Living in times of acceleration*, Rosa examines various causes of this acceleration and offers a philosophical response. In January he visited the University to give a lecture and a workshop for students, researchers and other interested parties.

MISSION

The University of Humanistic Studies is devoted to high quality scientific research and education on the basis of humanist values and thereby contributes to a humane and sustainable society in which all people can lead a meaningful life.

Photo: Lilian van Rooij



VOLUNTEERS OFTEN OVERSTEP THEIR LIMITS, SILENTLY

One fifth of the volunteers in care and welfare sometimes performs work that should actually be done by professional workers. They feel that this is not right, but the alternative would be that their clients do not receive the care they need at that moment. And so they often overstep limits, including their own. This is one of the notable outcomes of a two-year research by the University among 5200 volunteers in care and welfare and more than 600 coordinators of 14 national volunteers' organisations, commissioned by the association of organisations for voluntary work NOV. The results were presented in November.



Photo: Leger des Heils



The complete Annual Report of 2018 (in Dutch) can be found on our website: www.uvh.nl/annualreport2018

Kromme Nieuwegracht 29
3512 HD Utrecht The Netherlands
T +31 (0)30 2390 100 F +31 (0)30 2340 738
E info@uvh.nl www.uvh.nl

COLOPHON
Production University of Humanistic Studies
Translation Beter Engels Vertaalbureau
Design Carta Lian Oosterhoff
Printing Drukwerkdeal
Cover photo Lilian van Rooij