



ANNUAL REVIEW
2016

UVH | UNIVERSITY
OF HUMANISTIC
STUDIES

FOREWORD

What exactly do people mean when they say that their life has reached completion? How is the transformation of the welfare state affecting vulnerable people? How do we incorporate values such as tolerance and democracy into our school curricula? These are some of the questions that our scholars have researched in the past year.

And they are important questions that many people are concerned about. This is demonstrated, for instance, by the fact that our university saw its social and scientific networks continue to grow this year, and that the number of commissioned research projects increased. I look back with pride on a year in which the University of Humanistic Studies further consolidated its unique niche within the social and academic domains.

This Annual Review gives an impression of the work performed by all the university staff, its students, and the many academic and societal stakeholders that dedicate their efforts to this institution. I am very pleased with the results and I thank everyone for their immense effort!



Photo: Arnaud Mooij

Professor Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders, rector of the University of Humanistic Studies

WEEK AGAINST LONELINESS - VISIT BY STATE SECRETARY VAN RIJN

During the Dutch *Week against Loneliness* at the end of September, state secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport Martin van Rijn visited the university. He attended a lecture by professor Anja Machielse (cover of brochure), who is specialized in research into loneliness and social isolation among elderly persons. Alumnus Lizette Schoenmakers also gave a presentation on her study into loneliness among young people.



Photo: VWS

LEO POLAK THESIS PRIZE



Photo: Lilian van Rooij

Master student Sjoerd Robijn won the Leo Polak Thesis Prize for his thesis titled *The return to Oikonomia*, a philosophical study on reconciling economic growth with the ecological preservation of the planet.

BECOMING WHO YOU ARE

On 6 December, Hanne Laceulle was awarded a PhD degree for her dissertation *Becoming who you are. Aging, self-realization and cultural narratives about later life* with honours ('cum laude'). In our collective consciousness, aging is equivalent to deterioration and decline. Aging well, then, can only mean that we manage to defy old age and remain young, fit and dynamic for as long as possible. Yet neither cultural 'decline narratives' nor 'age-defying narratives' are capable of acknowledging the intrinsic value and potential of later life, or to offer a perspective on a meaningful way of coping with vulnerability. In her dissertation, philosopher Laceulle turns to the rich philosophical tradition of visions on self-realisation for new and more inspiring cultural narratives on old age. She was awarded the ENAS-dissertation prize by the European Network in Aging Studies.



EDUCATION



Photo: Gerard Linde

On 1 October 2016, 546 students were enrolled in the university's Bachelor's and Masters' programmes 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.

Furthermore, our graduate school offers a four year PhD programme with a special focus on research into and on behalf of professional practices. In 2016, 82 participants received supervision. Seven PhD students defended their dissertation.

EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

NATIONALE STUDENTEN ENQUETE

As the results of the National Students' Survey of 2016 show, students at the University of Humanistic Studies are very satisfied 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, the preparation for a professional career, and the development of scientific skills. General skills, the programme schedule, group size, internship experience and the academic environment all scored higher than a 4.

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC INTERCULTURAL CITIZENSHIP

The university obtained a grant for a strategic partnership project as part of the European programme, Erasmus+. The project focuses on Education for Democratic Intercultural Citizenship (EDIC+). Education plays a central role in preparing young people for democratic society, for active participation and for greater social justice and tolerance in all domains of society. Given this important task for education, it is necessary to train a new generation of educational professionals that can contribute to this development. Partners in the consortium are the universities of Helsinki, Tallinn, Prague, Bath-Spa, Barcelona and Thessaloniki. The three-year project will conclude in 2019 with an international conference in Utrecht.

STUDENTS INVESTIGATE THE POSITION OF TRANSGENDERS ON THE WORK FLOOR

Students of the Master's programme of Humanistic Studies researched the position and experiences of transgenders on the work floor, a project commissioned by the Transgender Network Netherlands.

They were given access to transgenders in the Netherlands, a group that is generally difficult to reach for researchers. In the end, 361 respondents cooperated with the study.

Under supervision of methodologist Wander van der Vaart and Tina Glasner, the results of the study were used to create a factsheet to help improve the position of transgenders on the work floor.

www.transgenderinfo.nl

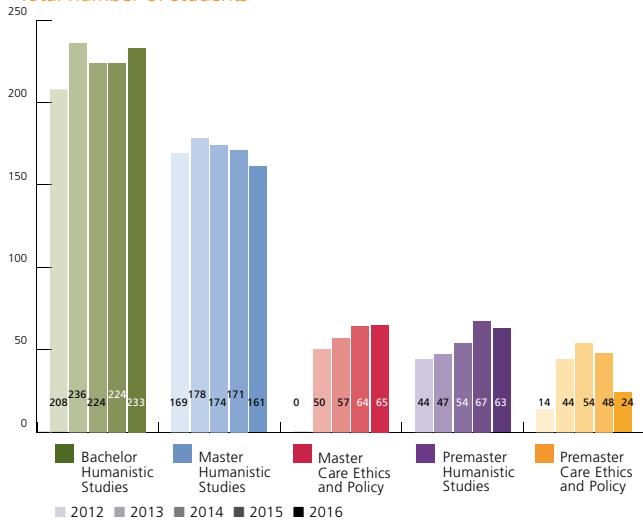


Photo: Chris Rijksen, TNM

FACTS AND FIGURES

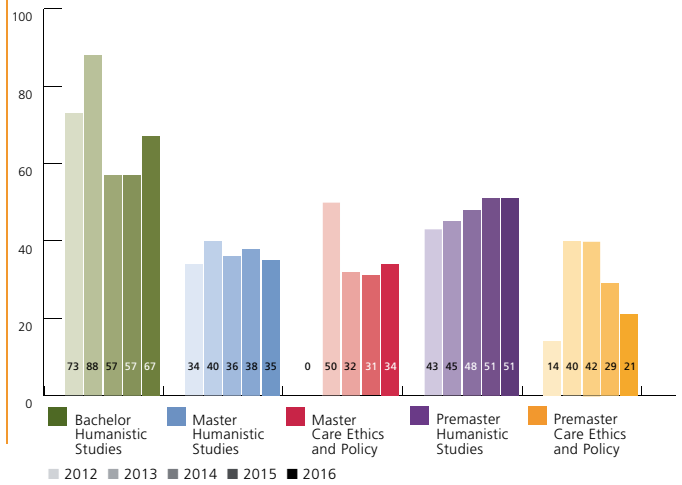
STUDENT ENROLLMENT (2012-2016)

Total number of students



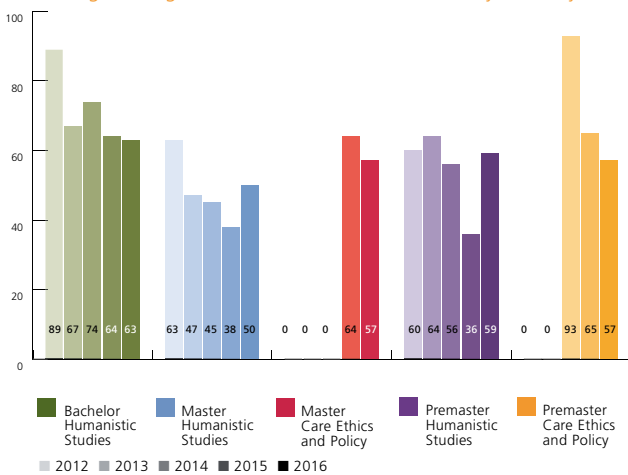
STUDENTS ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY (2012-2016)

Total number of first year students



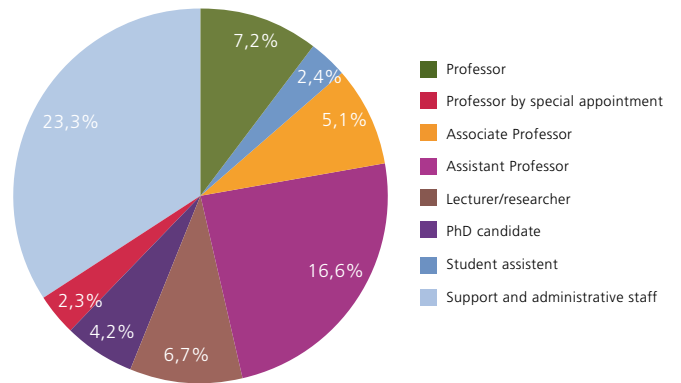
STUDY RESULTS PER COHORT

Percentage of degrees awarded (with less than one year delay)



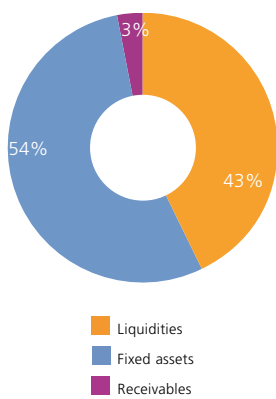
STAFF

Total 67,7 fte

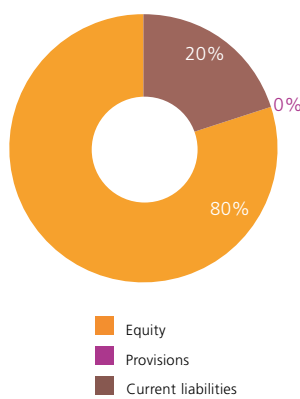


BALANCE SHEET 2016

7.351 k€
Assets

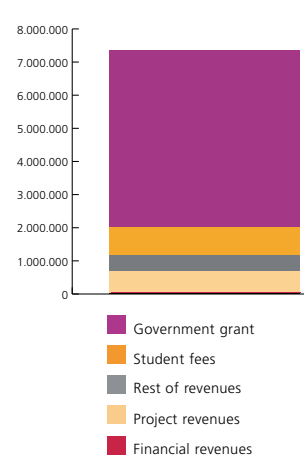


7.351 k€
Liabilities

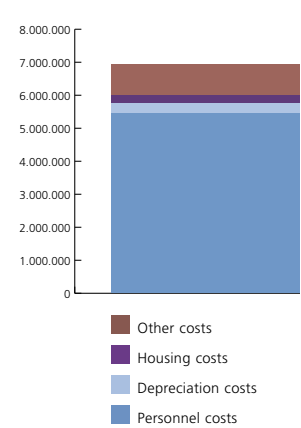


OPERATIONS 2016

7.364 k€
Revenues



6.953 k€
Costs



RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



Photo: Arnaud Mooij

The research programme is carried out by six groups, all of which are involved in both teaching and research. Each group is headed by a chair holder.

- Humanism and Philosophy (Prof. Joachim Duyndam)
- Education (Prof. Wiel Veugelers)
- Citizenship and Humanisation of the Public Sector (Prof. Evelien Tonkens)
- Globalisation and Dialogue Studies (Prof. Hans Alma)
- Care Ethics (Prof. Carlo Leget)
- Research Methodology and Theory of Sciences (Prof. Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders)

In 2016, there was a total of 17.5 FTE available for research. This year, a total of 58 scientific publications appeared. Research results were also made available for professionals and a wider audience.

(For a full list, see www.uvh.nl/english/publications)

CONTRIBUTION TO DISCUSSION ON COMPLETED LIFE

The question whether elderly people who feel that their lives are completed and no longer worth living should be offered assistance in actively bringing their life to an end is the subject of a vigorous public debate in the Netherlands. To reach well-informed political and practical decisions in the matter, it is necessary to gain a good understanding of the nature of the wish to 'give up on life': What do elderly people actually mean when they say their life has 'reached completion'? What are the underlying reasons and experiences that give rise to the wish to die?

On 22 November, Els van Wijngaarden defended her PhD-thesis *Ready to give up on life. A study into the lived experience of older people who consider their lives to*



Photo: Lillian van Rooij

be completed and no longer worth living. The thesis was awarded by the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation with a Research Prize. The jury was impressed by the qualitative analysis and hopes that the work will prove exemplary

in future debates on this important social issue.

In addition, Els presented the results of her study to a wider public with a Dutch book titled *Voltooid leven: over leven en willen sterven.*

The book was presented to Edith Schippers, Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports, at a public symposium where 350 participants attended an open and well-informed discussion.

PRACTICE CENTRE MEANING & PROFESSION



Photo: Fred van Diem

The Practice Centre Meaning & Profession contributes to processes of meaning and humanisation in professional practices and organisations. The Centre pursues its mission through training

and teaching programmes, workshops and conferences and coaching. In 2016, the Centre developed the new celebrant education programme, which started in February 2017.

SOCIAL IMAGINARIES

Although the 'Grand Narratives' no longer hold sway in our time, the relationship between religion and secular society is again a pressing matter. How do people picture the meaning of their life in a globalising world? Endowed professor Laurens ten Kate (photo) and professor Hans Alma were awarded a grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in 2016 to develop a new international consortium dedicated to studying 'social imaginaries'. Titled *Simagine*, this consortium brings together scholars from the United States and Europe to pursue the project titled 'Social Imaginaries between Secularity and Religion in a Globalizing World'.



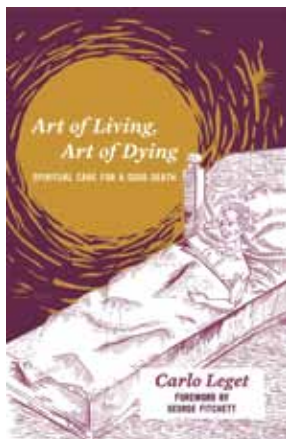
Photo: Lillian van Rooij



Photo: Willem Mes

END-OF-LIFE CARE

Professor Carlo Leget obtained a grant from the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (Zon-MW), jointly with Professor Saskia Teunissen of Utrecht Medical Centre, for research into meaning in life and palliative care. Leget, professor of Care Ethics and endowed professor of Palliative Care, has developed a much-used instrument for patients and their relatives and care givers to discuss questions of meaning in relation to the end of life, also known as the 'ars moriendi' model.



THE CHANGING ROLE OF VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS

The restructuring of the Dutch welfare state requires citizens to become more self-sufficient in meeting long-term care and support needs, by using their own networks and investing in community help. Furthermore, due to a large-scale decentralisation process, care and welfare responsibilities are increasingly devolved to the local level. These changes have a significant impact on the activities of profes-



Photo: Lillian van Rooij

sionals and volunteers active in the social domain and on their mutual coordination. Together with the Association of Dutch Voluntary Effort Organizations (NOV), a team of researchers conducts a monitoring study on the changing role of volunteer organisations. Professor Evelien Tonkens (photo) is one of the supervisors.

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: JK Images



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The complete Annual Report of 2016 (in Dutch) can be found on our website: www.uvh.nl/annualreport2016

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