



ANNUAL REVIEW  
2017

UvH | UNIVERSITY  
OF HUMANISTIC  
STUDIES

# FOREWORD

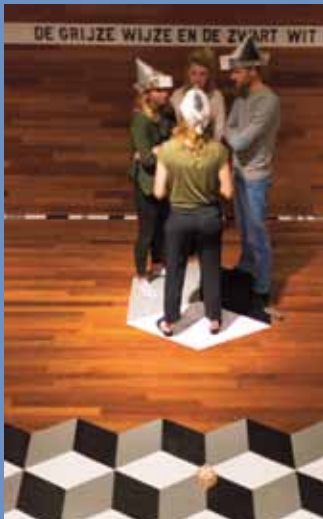
The Executive Board is pleased to look back on a successful year. The interim evaluations of both education and research were completed satisfactorily, we received above-average ratings in the National Students' Survey, and six beautiful research applications were granted. We further reinforced our collaboration with social partners through various covenants, such as the agreement with care organisation Prisma, and with the Dutch Humanist League (Humanistisch Verbond) and the Ministry of Defence. We very much appreciate how hard our staff have worked to achieve these wonderful results, and we thank them for it. The Board also wishes to thank the many partners with which it had the pleasure of collaborating in 2017: partners in the academic world, in education, in government, in care, in the public sector, and in humanist circles.



Clemens de Waal, MBA, and Rector Professor Gerty Lensvelt-Mulders

Photo: Echt Mooij

# SCIENCE FESTIVAL



The university once again participated in the annual Utrecht science festival. This year we organised a game of truth, called *Denk niet wit, denk niet zwart*, ('Don't think black, don't think white'), in which participants are encouraged to seek nuanced perspectives by engaging others in dialogue. Also, Professor Carlo Leget gave a public lecture, called *Does the soul exist?*

Photos: Oogfoto / Jan Willem Groen

# OPENING ACADEMIC YEAR ON THE SUBJECT OF MORAL SPACE

The British-American philosopher Philip Kitcher, author of *Life after faith* and guest speaker at the Opening of the Academic Year, addressed our students: "For two hundred thousand years, at least, members of our species have sometimes acted to improve the lives of those who came after them, creating new and better forms of society, as well as richer ideals for human living. Each generation is heir to the achievements – as well as the shortcomings – of its predecessors. Each generation has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to overcome some of the shortcomings, and to add to the list of accomplishments. To live a meaningful life is to discover your own way to participate in this project, and to make your own positive contribution to it."



Photo: Echt Mooij

# EDUCATION



Photo: Lilian van Rooij

On 1 October 2017, 531 students were enrolled in the university's Bachelor's and Masters' programmes of Humanistic Studies and of 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 2017, 73 participants received supervision. Thirteen PhD students defended their dissertation.



Photo: Gerard Linde

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

"At the University of Humanistic Studies it is a completely different way of teaching than I am used to" explains Giulia, one of the exchange students from the University of Milan. "It is informal, non-hierarchical and interactive. I learned a lot from the working groups and presentations, and I liked the interdisciplinarity." In 2017, the University of Humanistic Studies expanded its collaboration with universities abroad.

More information about our English-language programmes is available at [www.uvh.nl/exchange](http://www.uvh.nl/exchange).



Photo: Lilian van Rooij

### EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

NATIONALE STUDENTEN ENQUETE

As the results of the National Students' Survey of 2017 show, students at the University of Humanistic Studies are very satisfied with the education programmes. 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. We were also rated significantly higher than the national average for the new theme of 'Pursuit of Excellence'. Based on the results of this year's survey, the Master programme of Care Ethics and Policy was designated a 'Top programme' by the Higher Education study guide in 2018.

## WE HAVE A DREAM

Students of the university participated in the exhibition *We have a dream* in De Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, on the three major inspirational figures of Mandela, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Each Friday they interviewed visitors about their own inspirational figures. Who inspires you and why? How does inspiration work, and what does this reveal about you?



# HUMANIST COUNSELLORS IN THE ARMED FORCES

There is a growing need for humanist counsellors in the armed forces. The Humanist Counselling Service in the armed forces, the Humanist League and the University of Humanistic Studies have concluded a covenant to consolidate their collaboration with regard to the humanist counselling education programme. The Master programme of Humanistic Studies will focus more explicitly on preparing for the occupation of counsellor in the armed forces.



Photo: Ramaya Soe-Agnie

# EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC INTERCULTURAL CITIZENSHIP



Photo: Daniëlle Drenth

Education plays a central role in preparing young people for democratic society. Given this important task, it is necessary to train a new generation of educational professionals that can contribute to this development. Together with the universities of Helsinki, Tallinn, Prague, Bath-Spa, Barcelona and Thessaloniki, the University started the European project *Education for Democratic Intercultural Citizenship* with a first meeting in Prague for Master and PhD students. The three-year project is part of the European programme Erasmus+. More information is available at [www.uvh.nl/edic](http://www.uvh.nl/edic).

# CELEBRANT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

What is the significance of rituals in times of anxiety and uncertainty? In January 2017, the University organised a symposium on this topic, marking the start to a new education programme devoted to ritual studies and practices. Twelve professionals participated in the programme in 2017.



Photo: Ida van der Lee

# FACTS AND FIGURES

## STUDENTS

(1 October 2017)

Bachelor students	<b>215</b>
First year Bachelor students	<b>64</b>
Master students	<b>210</b>
Premaster students	<b>106</b>
PhD students graduate school	<b>73</b>

## DIPLOMAS

(31 December 2017)

Number of Bachelor and Master degrees	<b>111</b>
Number of Doctorate degrees	<b>13</b>

## STAFF

(31 December 2017)

Employees	<b>97</b> (68.4 FTE)
Academic Staff	<b>67</b> (45.9 FTE)
Professors	<b>16</b> (9.2 FTE) <i>of which 50% male and 50% female</i>
Student assistants	<b>22</b> (4.2 FTE)

# RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Photo: Arnaud Mooij



Our new research programme titled *A meaningful life in a just and caring society* (2017-2021) 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?

In 2017, we had 18.5 FTE available for research. There were 78 scientific publications and 117 publications for professionals and a more general public. Six grant applications were awarded.

## THE WIDOWS OF RAWAGEDÉ

Historian Nicole Immler travelled to Indonesia, together with documentary photographer Suzanne Liem, where she spoke with nearly fifty surviving relatives of victims of Dutch war crimes, committed during the war of independence (1945-1949). The portraits and testimonies of the widows were displayed in the National Military Museum in early 2017. Nicole Immler performs research into *Narratives of Injustice*. She explores compensation payments to (Jewish) victims of World War II in the Netherlands, and how the policies of the late 1990s became a reference point for present claims from post-colonial groups.



Photo: Leonor Faber-Jonker

## RESEARCH INTO CITIZENS' INITIATIVES

There is increasing attention for the ways in which citizens start all kinds of local initiatives, sometimes alongside, sometimes even substituting municipal service delivery. In 2017, the University received a grant from NWO to investigate what happens when government tasks and responsibilities are transferred to citizens' initiatives with a more informal and spontaneous character. Can vulnerable people count on citizen initiatives for durable support? What are the implications for the 'traditional' representative democracy? Professor Evelien Tonkens: "The municipalities involved in the project are motivated to learn in what ways to offer scope to citizen initiatives and how to understand their new roles towards these initiatives".



Photo: Lillian van Rooij

## VIBRANT RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE ELDERLY



Photo: Alex Schröder

The Dutch government encourages older people to live independently for as long as possible. Most older adults also want this, provided that certain conditions are met. They especially need a lively living environment in which they can easily participate and make contacts. Researchers headed by Anja Machielse evaluated an experiment by Platform31 that was carried out in ten housing complexes for older adults across the country. They investigated the possibilities and the limits of residents' self-organising ability, and what it takes to create a vibrant residential community in which the residents can easily meet and build relations with each other.

### CARE ETHICS

On the 4th of September, Jac de Bruijn, executive board member of Prisma, and Gerty Lensvelt, rector, signed a covenant consolidating their partnership and commitment to care ethics. Prisma is an organisation that provides care for people with a disability in all phases of life. The university's chair group of Care Ethics and Prisma collaborate in both research and education.



### TEACHING COMMON VALUES

The European Parliament wanted to know how secondary education across Europe devotes attention to values such as democracy and tolerance. To this end, the University of Humanistic Studies conducted a research project in partnership with universities in 11 other European countries and with experts from all 28 EU countries. The research leader, Professor Wiel Veugelers, presented the research report, *Teaching Common Values*, to the European Parliament in June of 2017.

Also, for the very first time, the Steering Group of the Care Ethics Research Consortium convened at our university. With just about all the world's continents represented, this meeting prepared the ground for the first-ever international conference on care ethics, to be held in September 2019 in the United States, organised jointly with Portland State University.

### 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



Kromme Nieuwegracht 29  
PO Box 797 3500 AT Utrecht The Netherlands  
T +31 (0)30 2390 100 F +31 (0)30 2340 738  
E info@uvh.nl www.uvh.nl

The complete Annual Report of 2017 (in Dutch) can be found on our website: [www.uvh.nl/annualreport2017](http://www.uvh.nl/annualreport2017)

**COLOPHON**  
Production University of Humanistic Studies  
Translation Beter Engels Vertaalbureau  
Design Carta Lian Oosterhoff  
Printing Drukkerwerkdeal  
Cover photo Django Roberts