



Universiteit Utrecht

Humanities at Utrecht University

The Netherlands



A Tradition in Innovation

The Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University

'A warm welcome to you'



A warm welcome to you, reader, wherever you may live or come from! Universities have no geographical or linguistic borders – that is, they are not supposed to. Although some people tend to see the Humanities as a collection of specific disciplines strongly defined within a national context, we in Utrecht are proud to have broadened our transnational perspective over the past years. Increasingly we are working towards the ancient ideal of a university as a simultaneously warm yet open and dynamic academic community, where students and staff can share cutting-edge knowledge, regardless of their nationality. In that sense our aim is to go 'back to the future'.

I sincerely hope that you will find what you are looking for with us here in Utrecht. And do tell us if something important is missing – we will do our very best to provide you with everything you need. I wish you much local enjoyment within a global experience.

Prof. Wiljan van den Akker, Dean of the Faculty, distinguished professor, poet

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Utrecht University in the Netherlands is a well-established, classical university, each year being awarded high rankings. In 2008 it was ranked 5th in Europe (Leiden ranking), and 47th in the world (Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities). It is a member of the prestigious League of European Research Universities (LERU), an association of twenty research-intensive universities sharing the values of high-quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research. In three hundred and fifty years, it has developed into one of the largest and most prominent institutions of science and education in Europe. It has 28,000 students and employs 6,500 staff, which makes it one of the largest universities in the country.

The Faculty of Humanities covers a wide range of subject areas including modern languages, literature, linguistics, communication, media, musicology, art, culture, history, philosophy and religion. It offers high-quality education and research. Its various institutes and departments are housed in historic buildings in the heart of the city. Each building has its own history, atmosphere and purpose. The University Library is situated in the former palace of King Louis Napoleon Bonaparte of Holland.



Universiteit Utrecht

The Utrecht University logo features a sun with the city's coat of arms in the centre. The sun symbolises the motto of Utrecht University: Sol Iustitia Illustrae Nos (Sun of Justice Enlighten Us).

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Utrecht, the Netherlands



The city of Utrecht has its origins in Roman times. It has been a university city ever since Utrecht University was founded in 1636. Located on a tributary of the Lower Rhine, in the heart of the Netherlands and only half an hour from Amsterdam, Utrecht is a lively and picturesque city.

Today Utrecht is a centre for international education, science, business and trade. Its historic centre, with its central gothic church (the 'Dom') and its many restaurants along the canal, makes it an ideal place to live, study and work. Many music, theatre, dance, and art festivals take place in the city. The Dutch are friendly people who have an international outlook on life, speak several languages and welcome foreigners with open arms.

'This is the place to be for me'



During the course of my Bachelor's degree in arts history in Belgrade, I discovered that Utrecht offered an interesting Master's programme in my field. I submitted my paper and was accepted. The programme was fully tailored to my own research needs, and I completed my internship at the Amsterdam Rijksmuseum (the National Museum of the Netherlands). I graduated cum laude and was offered

a junior teaching position that I would have been crazy to refuse! I also prepared a research proposal that was accepted. Because I am conducting research on 17th century Dutch painting, this is the place to be for me. I was very excited when I was the first to discover a handwritten confession by painter Gerard de Lairese, saying that he was always trying to compete with Raphael!

People organise so many events and lectures here. As I am also a violin player, I like to drop in on the musicologists and find out what is going on. I recently enjoyed a humorous lecture by a British specialist on the periodical banning of the 'indecent' B-flat. I definitely feel very much at home here. I rent a large room, and have my own facilities. The city has its own traditions and history, whilst also being very comfy and safe. The university library is incredible and people are always willing to help. I even talked a student from back home into coming here to do a Master's in linguistics.

Tijana Zakula MA, junior university teacher, PhD student

Research focus areas



'In your own small country, it's easy to think you're the centre of the world'

I come from Ireland, a country where stories about the past and how they are related to constructions of identity are extremely important. That was how I became fascinated by the question of how societies remember. I also realised that if you stay in your own small country you easily start to think you're the centre of the world. So I did my post-graduate study on the French revolution in Canada. Twenty years ago I came to Utrecht, and stayed.

The focus area of Cultures and Identities brings people together who work in the fields of culture, music, gender, literature, artistry, medieval studies, theology and cultural history, and – outside the humanities – also management and organisation. By bringing together these different disciplines we create a fascinating synergy. Our faculty combines the historical with a very strong contemporary outlook. Examining our own culture and time by comparing them to other cultures and time periods is the only way to generate critical reflection on where we are. Another very inspiring aspect is the combination of international openness and our location in continental Europe, giving us easy access to discussions in Germany, France and Italy, to name a few.

Prof. Ann Rigney, Professor of Comparative Literature, coordinator of the Research MA programme in Literary Studies, coordinator of focus area Cultures and Identities, Fellow of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences

Utrecht University has defined specific research focus areas to encourage collaboration among disciplines and scholars, creating a fertile environment for interdisciplinary breakthroughs.

The Faculty of Humanities participates in five university research focus areas, together with other faculties.

Cultures and Identities

Globalisation, immigration, and the process of European integration have called into question traditional collective identities based on the idea of a unitary national culture. The aim is to provide a systematic and integrated understanding of the way identities are continuously being shaped and revised in changing social circumstances.

The Origins and Impact of Institutions: Local, National, European

Economic and social traffic between people is shaped by formal and informal rules as well as by concomitant organisations. The aim is to investigate why these institutions at the local, national and European levels have acquired their specific forms and how they function.

History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities

Science determines the way the world can be conceptualised. The history of the sciences and the humanities should be conceived as a history of the evolution of scientific cultures. It studies the production of knowledge in a broad way, and should result in government policies that are better informed and better implemented.

Conflicts and Human Rights

The world community in the 21st century faces the rise of terrorism and a growing number of wars, caused by mounting ethnic-religious tensions and fierce competition for primary resources. The aim is to critically examine existing mechanisms towards peace-building and to develop more comprehensive approaches with respect to human rights in conflict areas.

Brain, Cognition and Behaviour

Safety, mental health and education are important challenges for society. To address these challenges, fundamental knowledge of our cognitive capacities, their modelling and the structure and function of the brain is indispensable. How does the brain develop and age? How does it sustain mental abilities and perceptions? The aim is to answer questions like these.

Talented researchers

The Faculty of Humanities, with over 6,000 students and nearly 900 staff members, offers an inspiring and dynamic working environment, attracting talented researchers from both the Netherlands and abroad. Every year 30 to 60 doctoral candidates are awarded their PhD degree, and the annual research output totals around 1,000 publications. The faculty's research and education programmes focus on culture, history, arts, literature, media, language, linguistics, philosophy and theology, covering the period from classical antiquity to the present day. It pays special attention to interdisciplinary and international collaboration, the use of new media, and high-quality teaching and research.

The enthusiasm of fellow researchers, the workspaces and the excellent facilities in the middle of the historic town centre provide a stimulating, professional atmosphere. Moreover, the Faculty of Humanities offers very attractive terms of employment. In addition to carrying out research and writing a dissertation, completing an educational programme is also an important part of a PhD position. The subjects and training courses offered by the Utrecht University



Graduate School of Humanities aim to improve academic and other professional skills, and to help with preparations for a future career. Every PhD student is staff member of one of the research schools (pp. 6-8) and participates in its education programme.

'At conferences, I discover that researchers are very interested in my subject'



Although musicology still involves an examination of the music itself, music is also being increasingly studied as a socio-cultural phenomenon. I research musical relationships between Europe, America and Asia from 1950 to the present, with a focus on music festivals. Examples include such events as the Silk Route Project of celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma, used as an instrument to re-establish cultural diplomacy following the Cold War, or the East-West Music Encounter in Tokyo in 1961, which was the first-ever meeting on a large scale between composers, musicians, musicologists and historians from America and Asia.

I am delighted that the faculty has so many good international contacts. At conferences, I discover that researchers are very interested in my subject, and I have conducted archival research myself into source materials in the US. I also very much enjoy Utrecht. Culturally there is a lot going on. It's important to me to have many opportunities to go to concerts or the theatre. It's also easy to get to other European cities from here. The faculty's high ambitions appeal to me.

Harm Langenkamp MA, PhD student

History and culture

Research in the fields of history and culture takes place at the **Research Institute for History and Culture (OGC)**.

The OGC facilitates and promotes outstanding research in the fields of history and culture at the faculty of Humanities. The OGC's research ranks internationally among the best in the field.

The over 300 researchers of the OGC are organized in ten research programmes. Part of this research is commissioned by third parties, such as governmental and non-governmental organisations and enterprises. The OGC also offers high-quality training programmes for PhD-students.

Research programmes

- **Art History**
- **Cultural History**
- **Gender Studies**
- **International and Political History**
- **Media Studies**
- **Medieval Culture**
- **Musicology**
- **Socio-Economic History**
- **Textual Culture**
- **The Culture of Classical Antiquity**

'Your ideas are taken seriously here'



I compare painting from the 15th and 16th centuries with contemporary visual culture, including computer animation. The 'making of' concept from earlier times up to the present also interests me. One minute, I'm watching YouTube videos, the next I have to head to the library to pick up a book from 1920 on the first films ever made on painters' techniques.

This is an international subject area. I come from Bremen in Germany and I studied in Vienna. I was awarded an Erasmus scholarship to come to Utrecht. I really enjoy myself here. The culture is very open and direct – you can just start talking to professors, who will also genuinely take your ideas seriously. First I lived in Amsterdam, and now I live in Utrecht, which is nice. I can walk to work. The historic library is just around the corner. The interdisciplinary aspect means there is plenty of 'elbow room': everyone can make their own contribution. The opportunities for doing your own research are myriad. In fact, you are encouraged to start doing so during your programme.

Dr Ann Sophie Lehmann, researcher, university teacher



Linguistics

The Utrecht institute of Linguistics OTS aims at developing scientific expertise in the systems underlying language, speech and their use. In both teaching and research, UiL OTS is active in setting up collaborative activities with groups beyond the institute itself, such as logic, computer science, neuroscience, biology, psychology and sociology.

The following general research question is fundamental: What are the cognitive faculties underlying the structure and use of human language, and what principles govern their interaction? The study of language pursued at UiL OTS centres on three different dimensions, summarized in the following (partly ordered) areas of research.



Research areas

- The architecture of the language system (phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon, semantics, discourse studies)
- The study of the cognitive processes underlying language acquisition (primary, secondary, bilingualism) and language processing (phonetics, psycholinguistics)
- The study of language as it is used in situations that differ in social, historical, geographical contexts, or modality (sociolinguistics, language contact, language teaching, speech technology, document design)



'As you read this, your brain is performing miracles'



As you read this, your brain is performing miracles, regardless of how lazy you yourself may be. Your eyes effort-lessly recognise the small symbols on this page, which your own personal computer then processes, converting the abstract information into a vivid mental representation. In addition to its speed, this process of comprehension is characterised by a perfectly calibrated interplay of rigid rules and boundless creativity. As linguists, we try to decode the complex rule systems of various languages. In doing so, we are often more interested in the rules that we follow subconsciously than in the official rules of a language. Our institute's strength lies in the fact that linguists and psychologists work closely together to unravel the mystery that the human language system continues to present.

Dr Arnout Koornneef, linguist and cognitive psychologist at UiL-OTS, university teacher of modern languages

Philosophy

ZENO Research Institute is a joint venture of Utrecht University and Leiden University. The research conducted by the institute contributes to the research programmes of various Dutch national research schools. It organises lectures and international conferences and supports international publications, seminars, conferences, and similar initiatives. A special ZENO Foundation has been established to channel financial support to philosophical research.

Research areas

- History of Philosophy
- Theoretical Philosophy
- Practical Philosophy



‘We look for solutions to moral challenges that are rooted in philosophy’

I have been working in the field of interdisciplinary ethical issues for 20 years, expressly in a philosophical context. We conduct research into the ethical issues involved in topics such as climate change, public health and new technology. We look for solutions that are rooted in philosophy to the moral challenges of modern society.

The conditions for this research at UU are excellent, owing to the combination of philosophy and applied ethics. That’s why I’m working here. It’s easy to come into contact with all sorts of people. There is an ample range of lectures and conferences, as well as many opportunities for cross disciplinary initiatives. The international Erasmus Mundus Applied Ethics programme offers the opportunity to meet students from all over the world. Just chat to some Congolese, Chinese, Romanian, Brazilian, Canadian and Korean people about the ethics of the human body, and you’ll understand what I mean. It’s difficult, but also very interesting. We conduct high-level discussions, and become all the wiser for it.

Prof. Marcus Düwell, professor in ethics, director of ZENO, director of the Ethics Institute



Theology

The INTEGON Research Institute for Theology and Religious Studies brings together the research work of Department of Theology researchers. INTEGON's aim is to encourage, facilitate and evaluate academic research in the field of theology and religious studies, as well as to develop and provide post-doctoral research programmes in this area. The research output is incorporated into both national and international forums, where it contributes to the debate. The INTEGON educational programme concentrates on the Cultures and Identities university research focus area via the theme 'The construction of religious identities'. INTEGON examines the topic in two thematic areas.

Research areas

- **Sacred texts and religious traditions:**
Crisis and renewal
- **Religion and religions in the modern world:**
Encountering the different



'I have the perfect job'

INTEGON is one of the faculty's smaller research institutes. It has nice, short lines of communication, and also organises a lot of interdisciplinary research. We are not only concerned with religion, but also with areas such as archaeology, church history and ethics. We offer researchers peer supervision, support and exchange opportunities. My personal research looks into how schools approach ideology – a serious subject in the Netherlands. Our educational system includes Christian-Protestant, Catholic, Islamic and public schools, providing all manner of research opportunities. One day a week, I work in the field for a consulting agency, where I organise lectures, study days and advisory programmes for schools struggling with these types of issues. I do it to maintain contact with society – the research and my work in the field complement each other well.

I have the perfect job: the content is challenging, and I can have interesting conversations with the people I work with. I could be doing much more consulting, but I love the depth of content research offers me. You help to develop your own subject area. We have conducted research into the extent to which the personal background of a teacher determines his or her qualities as a teacher. Although we talk about the education 'system', research such as this makes it clear just how infinitely detailed that system is. Individuals give their own interpretation of a school's signature, and I like revealing the differences.

Prof. Cok Bakker, director of INTEGON, senior university lecturer in religious pedagogy and didactics, professor by special appointment of 'Ideological development', consultant



Institutes, expertise centres, platforms and partnerships



Wherever subject areas require additional attention or collaboration, the faculty invests in specific institutions, expertise centres, platforms and partnerships that each have their own focus area.

Centre for the Humanities

Faculty platform for pioneering, innovative research & research training activities in the humanities, and an international Writer in Residence programme.

Descartes Centre

Utrecht University centre for historical, comparative and philosophical reflection on both the sciences and the humanities.

Ethics Institute

Institute that explores and clarifies moral problems from a philosophical perspective and teaches students of Utrecht University how to reflect on the moral dimensions of their field of study and practice.

Centre for Conflict Studies

Joint initiative of the faculty and the European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) which investigates and contributes to intellectual and practical debates on contemporary international and intrastate violent conflicts.

Centre for Advanced Gaming and Simulation (AGS)

Research centre of Utrecht University and Utrecht School of the Arts that advances the state-of-the-art in gaming, simulation and virtual reality.

Centre for Intercultural Theology – IIMO Centre

The Utrecht University Centre for non-Western Theology, Interreligious Dialogue, Missiology and Ecumenics studies theological developments in worldwide Christianity, its methods of enculturation and intercultural exchange, and its interreligious and ecumenical dialogues.

Centre of Expertise for Literary Translation

The Faculty's expertise centre on literary translation, in collaboration with Lessius Hogeschool in Antwerp and the Dutch Language Union.

Utrecht Centre for Religion & Society (UCR&S, website in Dutch)

Platform for researchers from different denominational and ideological institutions, participants include the Faculty of Humanities, the Utrecht University for Humanistics and the Islamic University of Rotterdam.

National research schools

Researchers at the Faculty of Humanities participate in several national research schools, which are partnerships between researchers from a range of universities. These research schools offer education programmes to PhD students and stimulate cooperation in a certain field of research.

'I need mobility and challenges,
something that Utrecht understood'



The Centre for the Humanities represents a platform where we discuss ideas and implement themes into research structures. Our aim is to be good team players: open, competitive in the global market and explaining to society what it is we do. We are setting up a group that will work on commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. In this faculty the Descartes Centre represents tradition, and we represent innovation. We also work very effectively both with each other and with centres worldwide. The benefits are enormous.

I have conducted much research on gender and biogenetics, but am now returning to my original discipline, that of political-social philosophy. I examine the use and abuse of concepts, or the way human rights have become a pretext for humanitarian wars. Although Obama is now improving the situation, it will take a long time to re-establish order. These changing landscapes can serve as points of reference for the humanities.

Utrecht understood me when I said that I needed mobility and challenges. I grew up in Italy and Australia, and travelled to Paris to study with Foucault. In the eighties, Utrecht University offered me the world's first chair in women's studies. During a sabbatical I lived in Princeton and London. Although I have had numerous interesting job offers I am still here, because they gave me the opportunity to found this centre that I believed in. Utrecht provides quality – my former students are all doing very well. And I love this place. I need old stones around me.

Prof. Rosi Braidotti, Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, director of the Centre for the Humanities, University Ambassador for Northern America



Studying at the Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities is internationally oriented and is happy to receive students from all over the world either for a complete course or for a shorter exchange period. It offers 21 Bachelor's degree programmes and 62 Master's degree programmes, 21 of which are taught in English. These programmes are offered both as classes for exchange students and as a complete study programme.



The Master's programmes in Applied Ethics and Gender and Ethnicity have been selected as Erasmus Mundus programmes and are offered as such by the faculty in cooperation with other universities worldwide. Selected students from all over the world study at universities in different countries and receive a double degree upon completion of one of the programmes.

The Faculty of Humanities offers exchange students courses at various levels in English, Dutch and other languages. For a short stay in Utrecht, the Summer School offers a broad range of summer courses in the humanities, from European Cultures and Identities, various languages and art history to the international Kurt Thomas Course for Conductors. International students are welcomed by the Faculty's International Office and receive assistance in finding accommodation and organising a range of practicalities.

'Computer games in education: beneficial to society'



I come from a small village near the Dutch coast and went to Utrecht for the Theatre, Film and Television Studies programme. I have always been interested in how the media interrelate. In the Master's programme in Media Studies, I can now concentrate more on new media, particularly the application of computer games in education: something that is beneficial to society. Individuals representing various nationalities work together, which makes for fascinating interaction. At first, I was amazed that someone from the US would come to our little country, but the education programme has earned high international regard. I personally think the teachers are quite good.

In my free time, I am completing a singing workshop at the university – soon I hope to progress to individual singing lessons. I also think it's important to make sure I still have time for my friends. I live in a leafy area on the edge of town in a student house with seven other students. Utrecht is a lovely city, with beautiful old streets and canals – it's a very comfortable town. We often have lectures in magnificent old halls. I don't know enough about Utrecht to be able to place the history of the buildings, but I do believe that its authentic feel is the strength of the faculty.

Bernadette Schrandt, MA student, Media Studies

Master's degree programmes 2008-2009 in English (see www.uu.nl/hum for changes)

American Studies	History and Philosophy of Science
Applied Ethics (also as an Erasmus Mundus programme)	History: Cities, States and Citizenship
Art History of the Low Countries in its European Context	Latin American and Caribbean Studies
Cognitive Artificial Intelligence	Linguistics: the Study of the Language Faculty
Comparative History	Literary Studies: Literature in the Modern Age
Comparative Women's Studies in Culture and Politics	Media (and Performance) Studies
Conflict Studies and Human Rights	Medieval Studies
Dutch Language and Literature	Musicology
Economics and History	Philosophy
Gender and Ethnicity (also as GEMMA Erasmus Mundus programme)	Theatre Studies
Historical and Comparative Studies of the Sciences and Humanities	Theology

Master's degree programmes in Dutch (2008-2009, see www.uu.nl/hum for changes)

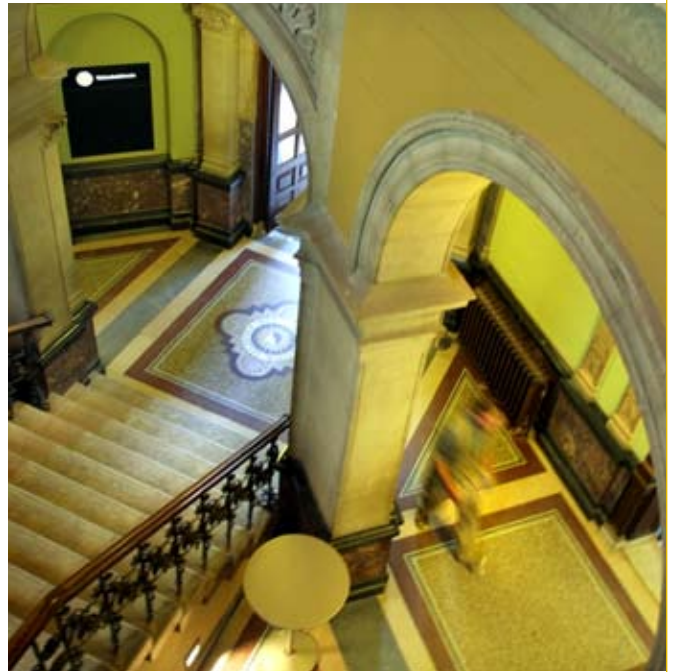
Antieke cultuur	Logopediewetenschap
Architectuurgeschiedenis en monumentenzorg	Middeleeuwse studies
Beeldende kunst tot 1850	Moderne kunst
Communicatiestudies	Muziekwetenschap
Cultureel erfgoed	Muziekwetenschap: educatie en communicatie
Duitse taal en cultuur: educatie en communicatie	Nederlandse literatuur
Engelse taal en cultuur: educatie en communicatie	Nederlandse taal en cultuur (deeltijd)
Film- en televisiewetenschap	Nederlandse taal en cultuur: educatie en communicatie
Filosofie in bedrijf	Nieuwe media en digitale cultuur
Franse taal en cultuur: educatie en communicatie	Renaissance studies
Geschiedenis (parttime)	Spaanse taal en cultuur: educatie en communicatie
Geschiedenis: educatie en communicatie	Theologie en geestelijke verzorging
Geschiedenis van politiek en cultuur	Taal en ontwikkeling
Godsdienst in de moderne wereld	Taal- en spraaktechnologie
Godsdienst/levensbeschouwing: educatie en communicatie	Taalstructuur en taalvariatie
Interculturele communicatie	Theaterwetenschap
Internationale betrekkingen in historisch perspectief	Vertalen
Islam in de moderne wereld	Vroegmoderne geschiedenis
Keltische talen en cultuur	Westerse literatuur en cultuur
Kunstbeleid en -management	Wijsbegeerte
Kunstgeschiedenis: educatie en communicatie	Wijsbegeerte: educatie en communicatie
Literatuurwetenschap	Wortels en ontwikkeling van het christendom

Bachelor's degree programmes in Dutch

Arabische taal en cultuur	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Communicatie- en informatiewetenschappen	Literatuurwetenschap
Duitse taal en cultuur	Muziekwetenschap
Engelse taal en cultuur	Nederlandse taal en cultuur
Franse taal en cultuur	Portugese taal en cultuur
Geschiedenis	Spaanse taal en cultuur
Godgeleerdheid	Taal- en cultuurstudies
Italiaanse taal en cultuur	Taalwetenschap
Keltische talen en cultuur	Theater-, film- en televisiewetenschap
Kunstgeschiedenis	Wijsbegeerte
Kunstmatische intelligentie	

Alumni

Alumni can participate in many activities, culminating in the annual University Day. Those who leave the Netherlands can stay up-to-date on faculty activities via newsletters and continue to make an active contribution via discussion platforms. The number and variety of activities for alumni differs according to course or subject group. Alumni that have settled in various parts of the world establish themselves as ambassadors of the faculty, providing information to interested parties from their own locations.



'I find the faculty's lectures and conferences tremendously inspiring'



I came to Utrecht in the eighties to study Dutch Literature and Language, with a focus on communications. Since then I have worked in communications, at first in several jobs, and for the last fourteen years as a freelancer. I work mostly for non-profit organisations and charities. A few years ago I returned to the faculty to complete an additional Master's programme in Applied Ethics. Writing about animal welfare or our obligations to the disadvantaged, for example I am now able to substantiate my arguments much more effectively. It is my aim to combine the two disciplines in corporate social responsibility consultancy.

I feel a strong connection to the faculty – I regularly attend lectures and conferences related to my interests and subject areas, for example. I always find them tremendously inspiring. I have also always maintained a great interest in literature, music and visual art, as well as in medieval culture. Via student choirs, I ended up in a vocal ensemble for early music, as part of which I perform works from the Late Middle Ages and the early Renaissance. Now I want to know everything about this music! As of recently, I can once again be found at the faculty nearly every day, because I've been hired for a communications project. I greatly enjoy working with my former teachers and fellow students again.

Monique Janssens MA, independent communications consultant and journalist, alumnus

A broad outlook

Distances no longer matter – it is possible to make contact with fellow researchers from Toronto to Tokyo on a daily basis. There are many opportunities for exchange. Each year a number of researchers, lecturers, doctoral candidates and Masters' students from several countries trade places with their Utrecht counterparts for a few months, thus familiarising themselves with a different academic culture. The faculty gladly makes use of the boundless and boundary-less possibilities, seeking out inspiring and fruitful partnerships with institutes worldwide.

The faculty coordinates the European **Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CLARIN)** research project, which will offer researchers across Europe computer access to spoken and written language material in all European languages.

On behalf of the UU, the faculty acts as secretary for the **Networked Interaction in Foreign Language Acquisition and Research (NIFLAR)** project, which aims to make foreign language education more authentic and interactive by using innovative e-learning.

The faculty coordinates **ATHENA3, the Advanced Thematic Network of Women's Studies in Europe**, which brings together 115 institutes in the field of Women's and Gender Studies, and unites scholars, teachers, and stakeholders from civil society and public institutions involved in the field of gender and diversity.

The faculty coordinates the **Media & Citizenship** research project: Transnational Television Cultures Reshaping Political Identities in the European Union. This consortium of five universities conducts research into the use of satellite TV channels by Arabic speakers living in the European Union.

EUscreen, coordinated by the faculty, is building a network of content providers, standardisation bodies, television research partners and specific user groups to provide multilingual and multicultural access to television heritage.

The Graduate Gender Programme is a member of the professional association **ATGENDER**, the European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation.

The Theology Department is a member of **Teaching Religion in a Multicultural European Society (TRES)**, a network that works to highlight, promote and develop new strategies for the teaching of religion and theology in a multicultural European context.

The International Economic History Association (IEHA) unites economic historians from 20 countries worldwide.

The OGC and the Descartes Centre are members of the **Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes**, which serves as a site for information, discussion and cross-disciplinary activity.

'Suddenly you understand what happened in the past – it's a fantastic moment'



I am greatly honoured that we will be the host university for the 15th World Congress of Economic History, the 'Olympic Games' of my field. Without international collaboration, our subject could not exist. I am currently researching causes of the emergence of rich and poor countries. Europe has developed positively over the previous millennia. Why did that not happen in Indonesia? Thanks to our colonial heritage, we have access to lots of information on that matter. After years of data collection, patterns emerge and suddenly you understand what happened in the past. It's a fantastic moment.

Jan Luiten van Zanden, Faculty Professor of Economic History in an Interdisciplinary Perspective, Vice President and future President of IEHA, NWO Spinoza recipient

The faculty takes part in the **Inter-university Research School for Islam Studies (ISIS)**, together with a large number of other Dutch universities.

There are many opportunities for **exchange**. Each year a number of researchers, lecturers, doctoral candidates and Masters' students from several countries trade places with their Utrecht counterparts for a few months, thus familiarising themselves with a different academic culture.

www.uu.nl/hum



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'Pursue your interests and use your talents, and sparks will fly!'



To everybody who reads this, I would like to say: pursue your interests and use your talents and you'll soon see sparks fly. I decided to study Dutch language and literature because of modern literature, but became fascinated by the breathtaking lectures of Prof W.P. Gerritsen on the Middle Ages. The international character of medieval studies also fascinated me. The tales of King Arthur and his Round Table exist in all Western European languages. Nowadays, exchanges outside of Europe are becoming increasingly important.

I try to be an ambassador for the humanities in a changing society. Together with my fellow academics, I developed the cultural-historic Canon of the Netherlands. I write books and give lectures that appeal to a modern audience. I was a visiting professor at Harvard. You feel a very warm connection with the university there; our quality lies in our highly liberal approach, and I try to combine these two cultures wherever I can. Plus, people here are simply extremely hardworking. Looking out of my window, I see the 'Dom'; the best surroundings for writing a book about 14th-century literature.

Prof. Frits van Oostrom, university professor in Medieval Culture