



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM

Faculty of Religion
and Theology

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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IN THIS EDITION

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NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

In this new *GradPost* you will find only a glimpse of what's currently going on in our Graduate School. It is about the new name of both our Faculty and the Graduate School, about a new international collaboration partner, a new administrative system that helps us (and you!) to stay organised, the announcement of some new online courses, and so on and so forth. In the past six months we welcomed more than 25 new PhD candidates and had a dozen of PhD defenses. For sure, all this puts some pressure on our staff and all supervisors involved ... but what a privilege to work together with so many young (and not so young) talented students from all over the world!

On behalf of our team, I wish you all a good summer!

Dr Arie W Zwiep
Director Graduate School



FACULTY OF THEOLOGY BECOMES FACULTY OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

On 6 June 2018, the Faculty of Theology of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam became the Faculty of Religion and Theology. With its new name the Faculty emphasises its focus on research into and education concerning religion in today's society, without relinquishing its strong position and network in classical theology.

Academic knowledge centre for religion and society

In the past fifteen years, the Faculty has broadened its scope from a Protestant pastoral degree programme to today's academic knowledge centre for religion and society. The Faculty has an unparalleled position in the Netherlands and Europe thanks to its embeddedness in a broad network of religious and philosophical communities. This uniquely enables it to take an academic approach to linking religion-related social issues with a large number of religious/philosophical traditions and to reflect on these issues theologically within the context of each tradition, often in cooperation with other institutions in the Netherlands and abroad.

In the coming years the ways in which the Faculty will strengthen its position include setting up a new interdisciplinary Amsterdam Centre for Religion and Sustainable Development, new chairs such as Hinduism and Society and Clinical Psychology of Religion, as well as a fully renewed international Bachelor's degree programme. In doing so it is connecting classical theology, interfaith dialogue, religious studies, and social issues.

Knowledge of religion and theological reflection

The Faculty's core task is to study religion as a form of engaged scholarship. This includes the religious sources, contemporary manifestations of religion and the role of religion in social issues. Theological reflection connects today's issues with the wisdom gathered in religious traditions over the centuries. Today, religion in the Netherlands and abroad has shown itself to be an important dimension of culture and society and many policymakers, governments, journalists, and others have discovered they need to know more about religion in order to deal with it adequately. The Faculty combines unique and broad academic knowledge about the phenomenon of religion with probing reflection based on the various religious traditions. Scholars and students at the Faculty represent all world religions and a wide variety of Christian communities.

This combination of academic quality, religious commitment and societal relevance has given the Faculty an outstanding international reputation. It ranks a global fifth in the QS ranking, for instance, and is often the first point of contact for ministries, NGOs and journalists who want to know more about religion. The Faculty also has a strong appeal among students. With 10 seminaries for religious communities, 100 researchers, and over 300 doctoral candidates worldwide, it is Europe's largest theological laboratory. Our new name symbolises the challenge we see before us. We are looking forward to continued cooperation with you in this new phase of our Faculty's evolution.

You can preview the renewed website [here](#)
Ruard Ganzevoort
Dean, Faculty of Religion and Theology

A NEW COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESEARCH

We are very proud to announce that Union School of Theology, Oxford and Bridgend, UK (UST) and the Faculty of Theology have recently established a partnership through which doctoral researchers from UST may be registered as PhD students of VU, and examined and awarded their degree by VU. The first candidates are currently being admitted to the programme. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation! For more information, see UST's [website](#).

EXPERTISECENTRUM BUITENPROMOVEREN

As it may not always be easy, as an external PhD candidate ('buitenpromovendus'), to do a PhD study next to other personal and professional obligations, the Dutch [Expertisecentrum Buitenpromoveren](#) offers useful tips and tools. It may be very worthwhile to have a look at their website. You might be interested in the *Handboek Buitenpromoveren* (unfortunately in Dutch only) or any of the many workshops they organize.

NEW FACULTY REGULATIONS (PROMOTION REGULATIONS)

In addition to the new Doctorate Regulations, recently the supplementary regulations for our faculty have been approved. They will be found on the website of the Graduate School soon (under [Doctorate Regulations](#)).

HORA FINITA



As a faculty we are going to use Hora Finita, a digital system to administer and track PhD trajectories, as of Thursday, June 14, 2018.

What does this mean for PhD students and (co)promoters?

All the information known to the Beadle Office about current PhD trajectories throughout the VU has been entered into the system. From June 14th on, PhD students can see what their project looks like in Hora Finita. Promoters get an overview of the current projects after logging in and can also look into the details of each individual project.

You are about to defend your thesis?

PhD students who are about to complete their PhD trajectory do so in the old way. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of work Hora Finita will not be used for these projects.

What do you need from June 14 onwards?

To log in to Hora Finita you only need your VU-net ID with your password.

PhD students without a VU-net ID, whose trajectory is in Hora Finita (e.g. outside candidates), will be sent a login name and password within a week after the system is up and running.

More information

You may have already seen Quick Reference Cards, or else they will be available at the secretariat in 2E-05. On June 14th everyone will receive an e-mail as soon as the system is in the air.

If you have any questions about this message, please contact the faculty contacts for Hora Finita: Eva van Urk (grad.school.the@vu.nl) or Mirjam de Leeuw (secretariaat.thw@vu.nl).

MEMBERSHIP FEES - A REMINDER

A gentle reminder! Please note that as from 1 September 2018 *all registered PhD students will have to pay the yearly membership fee*, including candidates who started before 1 April 2015. This, to be sure, has been communicated in an email d.d. 14 July 2016 and can be found also on our website. But if - despite all our efforts to reach you - you missed this email-communication for some reason, please let us know.

Please take careful note of the [payment instructions on the website](#), including information about VUnet IDs.

RECENT DOCTORAL DEFENSES

- 9 January 2018
D.J. de Kooter, *In de studeervertrekken van de Statenvertalers* (Den Hollander, LJ de Vries)
- 10 January 2018
J.M. Abrahamse, *The Stripping of the Ministry* (Van der Borght, HA Bakker)
- 24 January 2018
E.S. Patty, *Molukse theologie in Nederland* (Brinkman, Miedema)
- 31 January 2018
C.S. Holmgaard, *On Earth as it is in Heaven. New Creation in Matthew's Gospel* (Smit, Lietaert Peerbolte)
- 5 March 2018
D.J. Solomons, *Reconciliation as a controversial symbol* (joint degree University of Western Cape (Van der Borght, Conrade)
- 14 March 2018
J.M. Grimell, *Reconsidering the Uniform (Swedish military personnel)* (Ganzevoort, Girmalm)
- 27 March 2018
B.J.G. van Wesep, *Als het erop aankomt. Zingeving als kader voor leiderschap* (Stoffels, Van Saane)
- 10 April 2018
N.C. Che, *Participants, Characters and Roles. Gen 27-28* (Van Peursen, LJ de Vries)
- 23 April 2018
C.L. Schelin, *The Contestable Church* (IBTSC) (Van der Borght, Parushev)
- 22 May 2018
T.M. Taber, *What Can be Known about God is Plain* (Van den Brink, HD Peels)
- 29 May 2018
T.M. West, *The Art of Biblical Performance* (Van Peursen)
- 12 June 2018
D.M. Lees, *Intertextual Ripples of the Book of Esther* (Queens) (Grube, Staalduine-Sulman, Allen)

CLUE+ FUNDING

Many (potential) external PhD candidates inform about the possibilities of funding. Therefore we would like to direct your attention to CLUE+, an interfaculty research institute for culture, cognition, history and heritage, based at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. CLUE+ offers short-term financial support for a range of initiatives and activities related to doctoral research. Please see their brochure 'Funding and Fellowship Guide', which is available online: <https://clue.vu.nl/en/about-clue/FundingFellowshipGuide/index.aspx>.

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Given the increasing number of research proposals to be discussed by the PhD committee, research proposals must be turned in two weeks in advance (by uploading the file in Hora Finita, instructions will follow in due course). *Before submission, all proposals must have been discussed in one of the Faculty's research groups.* The deadlines can also be found on the [Agenda](#) page of the Graduate School.

Research Proposal deadlines:

- Mon 27 Aug 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 10 Sep 2018)
- Mon 24 Sep 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 8 Oct 2018)
- Mon 22 Oct 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 5 Nov 2018)
- Mon 19 Nov 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 3 Dec 2018)
- Mon 3 Dec 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 17 Dec 2018)
- Mon 31 Dec 2018, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 14 Jan 2019)
- Mon 21 Jan 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 4 Feb 2019)
- Mon 18 Feb 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 4 Mar 2019)
- Mon 18 Mar 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 1 Apr 2019)
- Mon 23 April 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 6 May 2019)
- Mon 20 May 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 3 June 2019)
- Mon 17 June 2019, 12:00 hrs. (to be discussed at PhD committee of Mon 1 Jul 2019)

ONLINE COURSES

- Registration for online course *research design*

If you want to take part in the online course on research design next semester (September-December), please send an email to onlinecourses.grad.school.the@vu.nl. Please do so 1 August 2018 at the latest.

- *New courses theology and science and New Testament seminar*

We are currently developing new online courses. For instance, an online course on *Theology and Science* (Sander Klaasse), in which we will explore a very vibrant and relatively new area of study in theology. More information will follow soon on the website under [Training Programme](#).

- *PhD Seminar in New Testament Studies (6 EC)*

This (residential and online) seminar is intended to bring together researchers specialised in New Testament studies in an interactive community-of-learners (course coordinators: Dr A.W. Zwiep and prof. dr. L.J. Lietaert Peerbolte). Researchers will be able to have their work discussed with fellow researchers and specialists in the field, preferably in the final stages of a project (dissertation, monograph). This seminar is open to registered PhD students with a specialization in New Testament (Biblical) studies and to members of the Amsterdam New Testament Colloquium.

Each year a different topic is chosen. This term (2018-2019) the text will be Dr Zwiep's work-in-progress on the pericope *Haemorrhosa et filia Jairi* (Mark 5:21-43; Mat 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56), a projected scholarly monograph of ca. 500 pages. If you want to register for this course, please send an email to onlinecourses.grad.the@vu.nl, indicating whether you want to participate in person or through Skype. For more information, contact Dr A.W. Zwiep, a.w.zwiep@vu.nl.

HOLIDAYS / OFFICE HOURS

The office of the Graduate School will be closed from Monday July 16th - Friday August 24th (week 29-34). For urgent matters concerning the Graduate School, please contact our office, tel. +31 20 59 866 20.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, SUMMER DEADLINE VISA PROCEDURES GUESTS AND EMPLOYEES

■ Summer deadline non-EU guests and employees

Applications for visa/residence permits and work permits (including extension), for non-EU guests and employees starting in September 2018, have to be received by the International Office (notification via VU-net) before the summer deadline of July 2, 2018. This deadline is set to prevent a delay for visa applications for guests and employees since IND needs more time to handle applications during the summer period.

The International Office guarantees that complete files that are submitted before July 2nd, will be sent to the IND in time. Late applications for guests and employees starting in September will be accepted, but no guarantees can be given about the starting date of the residence permit. This deadline applies to all procedures handled by the International Office.

■ Opening hours International Office July 2nd – August 20nd

From July 2nd – August 20nd the International Office can be reached for questions concerning visas by telephone during the opening hours, 10.00 – 11.30h (Monday to Friday). For questions outside of these opening hours, please send an e-mail to: immigration@vu.nl.

The International Office offers office hours every Thursday between 12.00-14.00. Appointments can be made via the online tool available on VU-net.

On 20 and 21 August the International Office is closed due to the Arrival Days for International students.

■ If you have any questions about the procedures, please send an e-mail to: immigration@vu.nl

AGENDA

- 15 June 2018 - [Tjitze Baarda Memorial Lecture](#)
- 20 June 2018 - Symposium [Image Building](#)
- 21 June 2018 - Promotion [Herman Wesseling, Een sterke toren in het midden der stad](#), 13:45 hrs. (Aula)

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