

# CLUE+ ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## "SCIENCE, YES; SCIENTISM, NO"

**Date:** Monday March 13, 2017  
**Speakers:** Susan Haack (Miami) and Hans Radder (Amsterdam)  
**Time:** 15:20-17:00 hrs.  
**Venue:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Main building, Room 10A-33

**ABSTRACT:** In Johannes Steiner's Wittgensteinian account, the scientific method is not a neutral, value-free procedure that can be applied to any domain. It is a method that is shaped by the social and cultural context in which it is used. The scientific method is not a neutral, value-free procedure that can be applied to any domain. It is a method that is shaped by the social and cultural context in which it is used.

## FROM REFORMATION TO REFORMATIONS

**On Analogies, Ideals and Idea**  
**HDC-ACRH CONFERENCE**  
**Date:** Wednesday and Thursday September 29-30, 2017  
**Time:** Wednesday 12:00-21:00 and Thursday 09:00-17:00  
**Venue:** Main building Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, PPA-302 1E-24

## DIVERSIFYING PHILO AFRICAN FEMINISM AND DECOLONISATION

**Date:** April 4, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00-12:25 hrs.  
**Place:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Main building, Room 14A-33

**Speakers:** Michelle Bouillon Walker (University of Queensland, Australia), Amanda Gooes (Binghamton University, South Africa), Nkiru Nwogwu (Binghamton University, New York), Daniela Morilla (INALCO - Université Sorbonne Paris-Cité).

## LECTURE FLOW OF ANCIENT METALS ACROSS EURASIA (FLAME)

**LECTURE BY PROF. DR. MARK POLLARD (OXFORD UNIVERSITY)**

**PROGRAMME:**  
 15:30 Introduction by Mark Pollard to the FLAME project  
 16:00 Lecture by Prof. Dr. Mark Pollard on the FLAME project  
 16:30 Q&A  
 17:00 Closing drinks

## MASCULINITIES AND VULNERABILITY: A LIVED RELIGION PERSPECTIVE

**Seminar with Bjorn Krondorfer (Northern Arizona University)**  
**Date:** Thursday June 8, 2017  
**Time:** 14:00-17:00 hrs.  
**Venue:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Faculty of Theology, Senaarsaal 2E-31

## OUR'ANIC PEOPLE OF SCRIPTURE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE RHETORICS OF THE QUR'AN

**Guest Lecture by prof. dr. Valkenberg**

**LECTURE:** Prof. dr. Pim Valkenberg  
**Date:** Wednesday October 11, 2017  
**Time:** 13:30-15:15 hrs.  
**Venue:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Main Building, Room 11A-33

**CLUE+**  
**RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE, COGNITION, HISTORY AND HERITAGE**



## EMPIRE OF THE SENSES: SENSORY KNOWLEDGE, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE EARLY AMERICAS

**Date:** Friday March 24, 2017

## FEMALE PIONEERS IN SLOVENIAN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

**Date:** Friday March 24, 2017

## WITH PRIORITIES IN THE PAST

**Date:** Friday March 24, 2017

## FINDING THE LIVES OF THE LIMES

**Date:** January 25-27, 2017  
**Place:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

## METAPHYSICS OF FREEDOM?

**Kant's Concept of Cosmological Freedom in Historical and Systematic Perspective**  
**Date:** March 29, 2017 - March 31, 2017  
**Place:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Main building, Rooms 10E-02/29 Aurora (March 29) and 10E-08/20 Aurora (March 30-31)  
**Info:** clue.vu.nl/en/activities/amsterdam2017  
**Email:** humberk.kotloga@vrijeuniversiteit.nl

## EMOTIONS

**Date:** donderdag 2 Zaterdag 2 Zondag 2  
**Tijd:** 15:30-17:15 uur  
**Plaats:** HG 12A-37

**PROGRAMMA (EN SPREEKERS):**  
 15:30-15:55 Peter van den Broek (Boogjaar Contactbureau) Bijeenkomst rond de lessen en lessen: emoties en 'emoties' in historische en religieuze teksten  
 15:55-16:20 Fokke van Oort (Bijeenkomst rond de lessen en lessen: 'emoties' in historische en religieuze teksten)  
 16:20-16:45 Erka Krijger (VU Cultuurgeschiedenis) Korte presentatie van verscheidene teksten  
 16:45-17:15 Algemene discussie

## Introduction

CLUE<sup>+</sup> is the VU interfaculty research institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage. The institute's mission is to investigate fundamental societal questions and phenomena, revolving around the VU's *Connected World* profile theme, in particular around the role of culture, knowledge, history and heritage in processes of digitization, globalization, migration and urbanization. Such research demands broad, interdisciplinary approaches, which are much more difficult to achieve in single faculties, departments or research groups. Elaborating these approaches in well defined, joint research programmes, helps CLUE<sup>+</sup> staff to become more competitive and to align with the strategic agendas of the principle funding agencies, which are also increasingly anchored in society.

CLUE<sup>+</sup> unites high qualified researchers from various faculties (Humanities, Religion and Theology, Sciences, Economics and Business Administration, Social Sciences and Law; from young talents to full professors). Other interdisciplinary research centers have joined, such as the Stevin Center, Abraham Kuyper Center, Accord, ACASA, and new centers have been created under the umbrella of CLUE<sup>+</sup>, such as the Environmental Humanities and Religious History Centers and the International Association of Landscape Archaeology. This mass, in combination with interdisciplinarity and quality, is a key strength of CLUE<sup>+</sup> and contributes greatly to its viability. It has had a positive impact on innovation, international visibility and competitiveness. This will be highlighted in the present annual report, which is dedicated to 2017. Part I of this report provides a qualitative evaluation, Part II contains a quantitative report.

*Gert-Jan Burgers*

*Director CLUE<sup>+</sup>*

## Qualitative section

### 1. Aims, targets and strategies

CLUE<sup>+</sup> aims to make crucial contributions to science and society, with fundamental research (e.g. on the history of Connected Worlds, knowledge formation or the archaeology of European landscapes), closely interlinked with applied studies (e.g. on digital tools, governance models or heritage planning). In many of these fields, CLUE<sup>+</sup> research is of the highest standards and (inter-)nationally agenda setting, which is acknowledged amongst others by the acquisition of recent prestigious grants (e.g. NWO, Templeton and EU-projects), by prizes and awards, international rankings and memberships

in (inter-) national scientific and advisory boards. Vital to CLUE<sup>+</sup>'s competitiveness is its external orientation. CLUE<sup>+</sup> researchers lead or participate in extensive collaborations and networks. Most of the international collaborations concern joint participation in research projects and programme grants (e.g. NWO, KP7, Hera), joint papers and conferences, exchange of PhD students and staff, software and data exchange, policy development or consultancy. CLUE<sup>+</sup> also explicitly promotes Public - Private and Partnerships. Like the academic collaborations, these greatly increase the institute's chances of acquiring funding in NWO, EU or other project calls. This also goes for collaborations in the Netherlands. Here,

the UVA is a natural point of reference for joint ventures (see *opportunities*), as is the city of Amsterdam (e.g. companies, museums) but collaborations include academic, public and private partners throughout the country. This societal anchoring is further promoted through strategic valorization programme, including:

- outreach (e.g. public lectures, television documentaries);
- participation in public debates;
- free access to research results;
- consultancy;
- development of tools;
- participatory community-based research.

Key to the success of CLUE<sup>+</sup> is the strategic use of a range of facilities and funds, aimed at integrating researchers from various disciplines; e.g. grants to explore new interdisciplinary themes or to organize innovation workshops, consortium building, PPP's and valorization activities, visiting fellowships, talent funds, labs for spatial digital tooling and participatory governance. The facilities are also to encourage a network-like structure, which is another basic strength of CLUE<sup>+</sup>; the overarching programmes facilitate dynamically interacting smaller research groups, each with their own Principle Investigator. This is the level where PhD supervision and mentorship is most intense and where young talented researchers are discovered. These groups organize themselves, build networks and arrange conferences and debates around themes that often crosscut those of the programmes. Integration of this network is guaranteed by sound management, run by the director, a policy officer and four programme coordinators. Together, they stimulate discussions, innovations, grant proposals and, fundamentally, a climate of cohesion. They also ensure that policy is turned into practice, oversee the budget, and make sure that targets are met.

## 2. Results 2017

In order to bring about and guarantee cohesion between the various research groups, there are four central overarching thematic programmes, which have been carefully delineated to accommodate interdisciplinary and diverse research groups. Each programme is coordinated by a distinguished senior CLUE<sup>+</sup>-scholar. All themes include several interlocking and cross-linked sub-themes (e.g. religion, conflict, migration, environment, the digital world *inter alia*); they all involve close collaboration between different disciplinary research groups within CLUE<sup>+</sup>, as well as with partner institutions from various scientific fields, internationally, nationally and locally. These four programmes are:

### Research cluster 1: Landscape and Heritage (coordinator prof. Gert-Jan Burgers)

This programme mirrors the earlier CLUE institute from which CLUE<sup>+</sup> originates (in 2015, CLUE was baptized CLUE<sup>+</sup>, with an increased mass and wider thematic scope. The programme resembles CLUE in its focus on **Cultural Landscapes and Urban Environments** (this explains the CLUE acronym). It investigates the heritage, historical development and present-day transformation of regions, cultural landscapes and urban environments, the historical background of current spatial and environmental issues and the changing role and meaning of cultural heritage in our living space and in society in general. Governance policies and economic strategies related to heritage and cultural landscapes are also central concerns, in particular those aiming at sustainable societies. Moreover, spatial digital techniques such as remote sensing, 3D modeling and geodesign tools are refined and tested in this programme. In 2017, research was further grouped around the following subthemes:

- **Connected Ancient Worlds** (FGW: ACASA)  
Research conducted in the context of the Amsterdam Center of Ancient Studies and Archaeology, from text-based studies of ancient taxation systems to archaeological surveys of interconnectivity and early urbanization.
- **The history and archaeology of European landscapes** (FGW: Dept. of AHA; FALW):  
Research projects that take a landscape approach with a broad and coherent view on socio-economic, technological and ecological developments, on the history of religions, mentalities and values and on changes in organization, administration and politics.
- **Heritage landscapes** (ACASA/Archaeology; Art & Culture/Heritage department; Spatial Economics/ Spinlab). CLUE+ members are at the forefront of international research into critical heritage studies: they investigate 'landscapes of war and trauma' to raise awareness of sites of painful WWII heritage, they study the role of airports in triggering socio-economic development in urban networks, or they analyse the economic value of heritage in modern metropolitan cities.
- **Designing with history** (ACASA/Archaeology; Art & Culture/Heritage department; Spinlab; FSW Public administration). These groups study and participate in governance structures, advisory boards and planning committees, in particular with regard to the reuse and redevelopment of monuments and cultural landscapes and, more generally, in relation to urban regeneration and regional transformation projects.
- **Landscape, heritage and e-science techniques** (Spinlab; ACASA/Archaeology); e.g. development of remote sensing, 3D-modeling and geodesign tools to be employed for research, as well as spatial planning and design

### *Research Projects and grants*

In 2017 the cluster again united diverse groups of researchers around common themes, organized

in a series of national and international research projects and programme grants (e.g. NWO Free Competition Humanities, VIDI, Investment Grants Large and Medium, EU-KP7, EU-Marie Curie IF). The consortia represented in these projects also include public bodies and private partners, apart from academic partners. Most of their output concerns joint papers and conference proceedings, software and data exchange, policy development and consultancy. The major research projects and grants are:

- **Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands** (NWO Investment Grant Larges, run by Nico Roymans and Stijn Heeren. The aim of PAN is to document and publish finds of archaeological interest, mainly those of metal, found by members of the general public and in private collections. By publishing the collections online, the objects and their find locations are made available for heritage purposes, academic research, museums, and members of the general public to enjoy.
- **HERCULES. Sustainable Futures for Europe's Heritage in Cultural Landscapes** (EU 7th Framework Programme, led by Humboldt- Universität Berlin); run by the VU Spatial Information Laboratory (Spinlab; School of Economics and Business Administration) The aim of this project is to increase understanding of drivers, patterns, and values of European cultural landscapes. The project was successfully ended in the spring of this year.
- **Mapping the Via Appia** (NWO Investment Grant Medium; led by Radboud University Nijmegen). Also run by the VU Spatial Information Laboratory (Spinlab; School of Economics and Business Administration); It aims at a thorough inventory and analysis of Roman interventions in the suburban landscape of the Roman Via Appia.
- **NEXUS 1492. New World Encounters in a Globalising World** (EU-7th Framework Programme, led by Leiden University), run by Gareth Davies of the VU Faculty of Earth



and Life Sciences, who is one of the Principal Investigators in this ERC Synergy project. The project investigates the impacts of colonial encounters in the Caribbean.

- **Hericoast. Management of Heritage in Coastal Landscapes**, (funded by the European programme Interreg). This project aims to improve regional policies for heritage management in maritime and fluvial regions. In the context of this project, CLUE+ postdoc Linde Egberts (Faculty of Humanities) is investigating how heritage and tourism are related in coastal regions in Europe.
- **Finding the limits of the Limes** (NWO/Innovational Research Incentive Scheme VIDI), run by Philip Verhagen who, with two PhDs, aims to apply spatial dynamic modelling to reconstruct and understand the development of the cultural landscape in the Dutch part of the Roman Limes.
- **The Sea and the Landroutes of Southern Euboea, ca. 4000–1 BC. A case study in Mediterranean interconnectivity** (NWO Free Competition Humanities), run by Jan Paul Crielaard; with three PhD candidates, he seeks to give a firmer empirical basis to the Mediterranean interconnectivity model and to critically examine some of its basic tenets.
- **Paying for All the King's Horses and All the King's Men – A Fiscal History of the Achaemenid Empire** (NWO Innovational Research Incentive Scheme VIDI), run by Kristin Kleber. With a postdoc and Phd she works on a new understanding of taxation, administration and the spending pattern of the Persian Empire.
- **Fitting in/ Standing out. Comparing Majority and Minority Dress Codes among Egyptian Muslims and Christians** (NWO Free Competition), directed by Bas ter Haar Romeny, on a comparison between majority and minority dress codes among Egyptian Muslims and Christians.
- **Urbanet** (EU Marie Curie Individual Fellowship), Lieve Donnellan was awarded a EU Marie Curie Individual Fellowship for her project

- **Valorizzazione e fruizione dell'insediamento messapico di Muro Tenente** (funded by the EU Regional Development Fund for Apulia and the Italian Ministry of Culture MIBACT), run by Gert-Jan Burgers, planning a landscape reserve at a major archaeological site in southern Italy.

Apart from these programme-driven projects, the cluster also includes ongoing individual Phd projects, funded amongst others by NWO, Archon and the Chinese Scholarship Council .

### Key publications

- Roymans, N.G.A.M., S. Heeren & W. DeClercq (Eds.), 2017: *Social dynamics in the Northwest Frontiers of the Late Roman empire. Beyond decline or transformation*. (Amsterdam Archaeological Studies; No. 26). Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
- Egberts, L., 2017: *Chosen Legacies. Heritage in Regional Identity*, Taylor and Francis.
- Kluiving, S., L. Kootker & R.A.E. Hermans (Eds.), in: *Interdisciplinarity between Humanities and Science*. A Festschrift in honour of Prof. Dr. Henk Kars, Amsterdam: CLUES.
- Scholten, H. et al. 2017: 'Geocraft as a means to support the development of smart cities, getting the people of the place involved - youth included -', in: *Quality Innovation Prosperity*, 21,1, pp. 119-150.
- Van Manen, N., G.-J. Burgers, R. Sebastiani,, M. de Kleijn, 2017: 'Landscape Biography as a strategy for interdisciplinary urban history and heritage research', in: *Città e Storia*, XI, 1, pp. 27-55.

### Highlighted

Egberts, L. 2017: *Chosen Legacies. Heritage in Regional Identity*, Taylor and Francis.

### Abstract

The urge for regional identity has not declined in the process of globalization. Rather, heritage

is used to develop regional distinctiveness and to charge identities with a past. Particularly helpful for this aim are creation stories, Golden Ages or recent, shared traumas. Some themes such as the Roman era or the Second World War appear easier to appropriate than, for example, prehistory. This book assesses the role of heritage in the construction of regional identities in Western Europe. It contains case studies on early medieval heritage in Alsace and Euregio-Meuse Rhine, industrial heritage in the German Ruhr area and competing memories in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region in the Netherlands. It presents new insights into the process of heritage production on a regional level in relationship to processes of identity construction. The theoretical analysis of “heritage and regional identity”; is innovative as these concepts were hardly analysed in relation to each other before. This book also offers insights into policy, tourism, spatial development and regional development to policymakers, politicians, designers and professionals in the heritage and tourism industries.

### *Valorization*

In 2017, much of the research carried out in the context of the CLUE+ programme ‘Landscape and Heritage’ was again inspired by societal themes and challenges, whether on connectedness and globalisation in antiquity (e.g. Euboia project; Urbanet), on modern policies of landscape development (e.g. Hercules; Hericoast), on concentration camps, such as in ‘landscapes of war and trauma’ (Rob van der Laarse) or on the social and economic value of heritage in modern cities (e.g. Challenging Testaccio). To foster the societal value of the research outcomes, close collaboration with public and private partners is a vital element in many of the projects. The public partners include national heritage boards (e.g. the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, the Soprintendenza Speciale per il Colosseo, il Museo Nazionale Romano e l’Area Archeologica di Roma),

municipalities (e.g. Amsterdam, Nijmegen, Rome) and museums (e.g. Allard Pierson Museum, Valkhof Museum). Private partners include small and medium enterprises (e.g. Geodan, ABDR, Impact) and associations. The EU Interreg-project Hericoast is a great example, which started in 2016 and unites research institutes with heritage boards, county councils and tourist agencies to facilitate policy learning and supporting exchange of experience, in line with the EC’s advice on participatory governance of cultural heritage. Similar methods of collaboration are present in the Hercules project, which aims to use the knowledge produced by the project to develop, test, and demonstrate strategies for the protection, management, and planning of European rural landscapes. Likewise, the Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands (PAN)-Project aims to create an online database of coin finds in the Netherlands, making it available to heritage experts and urban planners. Linked to these projects are outreach activities, ranging from informative meetings to educational workshops open to the public.

### *A new international research association - IALA*

In 2017 this programma saw the foundation of IALA, the International Association for Landscape Archeology. IALA operates under the umbrella of CLUE+. It is a non-profit international association open to anyone who is interested, engaged, or associated with landscape archaeology and related interdisciplinary studies. In order to establish a long-term collaboration between all researchers in this interdisciplinary arena IALA’s mission is to bring together all people involved in landscape research with a multi-disciplinary agenda. IALA aims to bridge the divide between sciences and humanities through higher education of young people, publications and supervising and promoting bi-annual conference organisation in order to establish a long-term sustainable development in interdisciplinary Landscape Archaeology. While growing in



memberships in the near future IALA will support young scientists in landscape archaeology with a 3-fold award programme, in a. best doctoral dissertation, b. travel support, c. financial support in APC's (Article Processing Charges). See for more info on the association <https://iala-lac.org/>

## Research cluster 2: Global history, heritage and memory (coordinator prof. Karel Davids)

This CLUE+ research cluster is concerned with the question how large-scale social, economic, ecological and political changes, such as the rise of global markets, industrialization, urbanization, climate change, the rise of world religions or transformation processes with respect to colonial and postcolonial state and nation building, resonate in heritage formation and memory politics. Such overarching themes are being studied in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas in relation to practices of memory and processes of heritage formation from Late Antiquity up to the present postcolonial times.

Some of the major questions studied by investigators in the CLUE+ cluster 'Global history, heritage and memory' are as follows: To what extent do large-scale social, economic, ecological and political changes have a different impact on heritage and memory? How can these variations in time and space be explained? In what respect do postcolonial historiographies of nation building differ from, or feed into heritage politics?

The research in this CLUE+ cluster follows several lines, grouped by subthemes or working groups which cooperate with partners inside and outside the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Within these subthemes, cultural historians, political historians, economic and social historians, historians of religion, theologians, historians of knowledge, literary scholars and practitioners of other disciplines closely work together. The subthemes include:

- **Global history and heritage in a (post) colonial world:** this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as: world heritage sites and stories; transnationalism in cultures; (extra-) territoriality and identity; colonialism and historiography; memory politics; information on its projects and activities can be found on [www.ghhpw.com](http://www.ghhpw.com). The subtheme links up with the crosscutting CLUE+ theme 'Terrorscape', which studies transnational memory of totalitarian terror and genocide.
- **Slavery and the slave trade: history and heritage:** this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as the economic impact, memories and geographies of slavery and the slavery trade; the subtheme includes the NWO-funded research project 'Slaves, commodities and logistics', in cooperation with the International Institute of Social History and the University of Leiden, and the Werkgroep Slavernijstudies, which cooperates with NINsee, the Amsterdam Museum and the Bijlmer Parktheater in the Platform Slavernijverleden (funded by the Municipality of Amsterdam) and the Mapping Slavery-project (<http://www.clue.vu.nl/en/projects/current-projects/mapping-slavery/index.aspx>).
- **Literature and transnationalism:** this subtheme studies life-writing and literature in times of war or cultural/political/economic crisis in a comparative and transnational perspective. The subtheme links up with the international expert group 'Unhinging the national framework: Platform for life-writing and transnationalism' (<http://www.clue.vu.nl/en/projects/current-projects/Unhinging-the-National-Framework/index.aspx>) which aims to set off a dialogue between PhD candidates and senior researchers currently working on biographies, and biographers who published work on comparable transnational historical figures between 1980 and 2015.
- **Religious groups: Cultures and sacral geographies:** this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as national and global bible belts; religious landscapes; religion, civil society and nation states and the impact

of the Soviet legacy on post-Soviet Orthodoxy; the subtheme links up with the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History (ACRH) (<https://www.acrh.eu/>), the Digibron project (<http://www.digibron.nl/>), the Biblebelt Network (<http://www.dutchbiblebelt.org/>), the European Bible Belts-project (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/research-projects/i/54/27054.html>) and the Theology after Gulag research group (<http://www.in-a-sec.com/blog/item/26-theology-after-gulag-research-group>).

■ **Globalization, urbanization and knowledge:**

this subtheme is concerned with interrelations between globalization and the making, transmission and appropriation of knowledge in an urban context; imperialism and science; researchers collaborate with the working group 'Knowledge and the city, ca. 1450 – ca. 1800' (Descartes Centre/ Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin) and the project 'Urbanizing nature' at the University of Antwerp. This subtheme links up with the crosscutting CLUE+ theme of the Stevin Centre for History of Sciences and Humanities ([www.stevincentre.com/](http://www.stevincentre.com/)).

- **Living with water:** researchers of this subtheme look in a comparative way at with human survival strategies in relation to water; natural disasters; harvesting from the sea; harbours and water fronts; maritime labour; the subtheme links up with the Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam, the Vereniging voor Waterstaatsgeschiedenis, the NAP Bezoekerscentrum, the University of Utrecht in the 'Poldermodel'-project and the crosscutting CLUE+ theme 'Environmental humanities' (<https://environmentalhumanitiescenter.com/>)

Members of the research cluster 'Global history, heritage and memory' regularly discuss ongoing research in seminars, notably the Global History Seminar and the seminars under the aegis of the Werkgroep Slavernijverleden, the Stevin Center for History of Sciences and Humanities, the Amsterdam Center for

Religious History and the Environmental Humanities Center.

### Highlights in research

2017 was a very successful year for researchers of this CLUE+ cluster. They have acquired funding for new projects, they organized panels and symposia and they have been highly active in making the results of their work visible for a wider audience. Members of this cluster also made significant progress in preparing the submission of research proposals in 2018 and 2019.

One of the new projects started in 2017 (funded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) is **Senates in crisis**, which compares the relations between Senates and the people in North Atlantic small power constitutional monarchies (The Low Countries, Scandinavia, Ireland and Canada from ca. 1800 to the present) in times of political crisis. This project is coordinated by Wybren Versteegen together with Nikolaj Bijleveld (University of Groningen). Wouter de Vries obtained a grant from NWO PhDs in the Humanities for a PhD project on *Imagining Earth - Prints as Evidence in Natural Philosophy, 1650-1750*. The CLUE+-funded international expert group Unhinging the National Framework: Platform for Life-Writing and Transnationalism, received a Network Grant (Cutting Edge Research Fund, University of Amsterdam) for the preparation of a COST application for the European Research Council, to be submitted in 2018. A Horizon 2020-application related to the European Bible Belts-project co-authored by Fred van Lieburg, which received excellent reviews, was eventually not successful.

Karel Davids, coordinator of the theme group *Globalization, urbanization and knowledge*, organized a panel on 'Regime change and the loss of knowledge' at the European conference on World and Global History in Budapest in August 2017 and Pepijn Brandon (*Global history*



and heritage in a (post)colonial world) co-organized a panel on 'Labour relations under imperial conditions: Asia, Africa and the European metropolises'. Researchers of the theme groups on *Slavery and the slave trade, Literature and transnationalism* and *Living with water* organized panels at the first Historicidagen of the Koninklijk Nederlands Historisch Genootschap in Utrecht on August 24-26, 2017.

The CLUE<sup>+</sup>-funded international expert group Unhinging the National Framework: Platform for Life-Writing and Transnationalism, held a symposium at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on December 8, 2017. Related to the theme group *Religious groups*, the NWO-funded European Bible Belts-network, co-organized by Fred van Lieburg, held a network meeting in Umeå (Sweden) in November 2017 to prepare for future European applications. An expert meeting on 'God after Gulag', co-organized by Katja Tolstoya, took place in Northampton (MA) (United States) in April 2017 and a conference *From Reformation to Reformations: On Analogies, Ideas and Ideals*, organized by George Harinck, was held in Amsterdam in September 20-21, 2017.

### Highlights in valorization and media attention

Among the highlights in valorization of this CLUE + research cluster in 2017 was the exhibition *Aromatic Art (Re-)constructed: In Search of Lost Scents*, accompanied by a symposium at the Vrije Universiteit on February 24, 2017. CLUE<sup>+</sup> researcher Caro Verbeek and VU curator Wende Wallert opened this event, which was attended by more than 200 people, including members of the national and international press. Dienne Hondius and other members of the Mapping slavery-group organized city tours along sites associated with slavery and the slave trade in Amsterdam, Haarlem and Utrecht, held presentations about the project at the Tong Tong Fair in The Hague, the Keti Koti Festival in Amsterdam Tresoar in Leeuwarden and presented the book *Dutch New York Histories:*

*Connecting African, Native American and Slavery Heritage at meetings in Albany (United States) and Amsterdam.*

Related to the *Living with water-group*, Petra van Dam jointly with Piet van Cruyningen wrote a blog 'A Global Comparison of Premodern Institutions for Water Management,' about the special issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Environment and History* with papers of the international workshop of the Polderproject. <https://whitehorsepress.blog/2017/08/21/a-global-comparison-of-pre-modern-institutions-for-water-management>. The release of Jos van Beurden's book *Treasure in trusted hands. Negotiating the future of colonial cultural objects* (published in the CLUES series), related to the theme *Global history and heritage in a (post)colonial world*, was the occasion for a lively panel debate with museum directors in Amsterdam on May 29, 2017. At a meeting of the Stichting Kastelen Buitenplaatsen Landgoederen in Huygens' Hofwijck in Voorburg on July 7, 2017, Wybren Versteegen presented his new book *Vrije Wandeling. Het parlement, de fiscus en de bescherming van het particuliere Nederlandse natuurschoon*. An account of this happening can be found on <https://www.skbl.nl/onderhoudende-en-leerzame-ontvangst-rond-presentatie-van-het-boek-vrije-wandeling/>.

### Key publications

- Bel, J., 2017: "'Een spookachtige sfeer". Couperus en de diepe kloof tussen Oost en West', in: Oderwald, A., K. Neuveld & A. Thijs (Eds.), *Ziekelijk bang. Angst in fictie*. Utrecht: De Tijdstroom. pp. 81-89.
- Beurden, J. van, 2017: *Treasure in trusted hands. Negotiating the future of colonial cultural objects*. CLUES series. Leiden: Sidestone Press.
- Dam, P.J.E.M. van, P. van Cruyningen & M. van Tielhof, 2017: 'A global comparison of premodern institutions for water management', in: *Environment and History* 23 (2017) 3, pp. 335-340.

- Hondius, D., N. Jouwe, J. Tosch & D. Stam, 2017: *Dutch New York Histories: Connecting African, Native American and slavery heritage*. Volendam: LM Publishers.
- Tolstoya, K., 2017: 'Theology after the Gulag: Introducing the field', in: *Ecumenical Compendium for GETI'17: "Reforming Theology – Migrating Church – Transforming Society"*. Hamburg: Missionshilfeverlag.
- Versteegen, W., 2017: *Vrije Wandeling. Het parlement, de fiscus en de bescherming van het particuliere natuurschoon. De natuurschoonwet tussen 1924 en 1995*. Groningen: Historia Agriculturae 47.

### Research cluster 3: Paradigms of Creativity

(coordinator prof. Katja Kwastek)

This cluster centers on the question how cultural production and exchange have developed in the last centuries in a context of 'creativity'. Creativity is studied not only in terms of the individual producer's motivations, ambitions, activities, and strategies, but also concerning the social-political surroundings in which innovation and originality have been recurrently promoted as key aspects of an industrial and post-industrial society. Today, creativity is no longer restricted to a finite class of makers, but has become a societal paradigm, including what we might call 'creative use' and 'self-creation'. Creativity in everyday life and in artistic production is historically conditioned and has changed throughout the ages along with production technologies, mediation processes and reception practices. It is embedded in changing relations of material and immaterial culture, public and private spheres, documentary sources and imagined narratives. It is subject to changing contents of value-related concepts such as originality, authenticity and the like, which evolve historically and are instrumentalized to cater for the public, institutional, and individual demand. Therefore this cluster is dedicated

to studying expressions of creativity in their specific historical, institutional and societal contexts, in a comparative analysis of early modern, modern, and contemporary practices. In fact, contemporary concepts of creativity are no longer restricted to the idea of the absolute new, but also related to practices of creative reuse, appropriation, (re)mediation, and recontextualization. We therefore need to thoroughly scrutinize the aesthetic, cultural and political practices of mediation, exploration and reflection which have emerged as part of and in response to expressions of creativity. At the same time, research on creativity has to be done in close relation to what is often considered its opposite, namely established traditions, cultural norms and institutional contexts. In the context of these developments, we also have to reconsider notions of authorship and legal conditions of creativity, as well as its relation to the increasingly conflicting notions of innovation and sustainability.

In order to do so, researchers of the cluster study creativity along different perspectives, theoretically and historically. Starting from the self-fashioning and organization of producers of visual, literary, and material artifacts the cluster sets out to specifically address the diverse actors and audiences of creativity and their respective practices, including core concepts such as authenticity, originality and innovation, but also the changing definitions of amateurs and professionals, producers and consumers, of private and public spheres and what it means to participate in culture. Related to this is the exchange between individual actors, commercial and cultural systems as contexts and locations of creative practices. It researches the influence of the increasing geographical and temporal mobility of actors and objects on concepts of creativity, including the interplay of different layers of temporality which challenge our spatial and temporal concepts of history, including genealogies of art, communities and political geography, as well as the canonization of its narratives and the different processes of inclusion and exclusion at stake. A further focal

point are questions of intermediality and (re)mediation, that is the convergences between different media (visual art, literature, film, digital media, design, games) and their respective forms of mediation, and preservation (museums, archives, the public sphere, collective memory), including practices of appropriation, reenactment, versioning, and translation, in physical as well as digital space.

### *Research in the Arts*

Also methodologically, the cluster aims at exploring new pathways, especially concerning integrated research bridging theory and practice and exploring new experimental ways of humanities research. Reaching out both to curatorial and artistic research, the cluster aims at exploring the possibilities of integrated research in between artists, curators, and university scholars of all disciplines.

In 2017, the research platform ARIAS – founded in 2016 by the Amsterdam University of the Arts (AHK), Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA), University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Vrije Universiteit (VU Amsterdam) to enable intersections, encounters and collaborations between art-research and research in the humanities, social sciences and the natural sciences – gained momentum in organizing several workshops and gatherings, around the themes of Art, Culture and Health, the city as site of research, and Art, Research and Education, and in developing a specific PhD in the Arts trajectory. Researchers of the CLUE+ cluster ‘Paradigms of Creativity’ are actively involved in two of the working groups as well as the PhD trajectory initiative. Related to this, also in 2017, the VU could see their first artistic PhD candidate highly successfully graduate. Performance artist Jeremiah Day defended his thesis “A kind of imagination that has nothing to do with fiction”, supervised by former VU professor Wouter Davidts and current VU professor literature studies, Diederik Oostdijk.

In the line of strengthening cooperation in between Art & Research, the cluster also supported and intensified cooperation with the VU art curator, Wende Wallert. Together with Caro Verbeek, PhD researcher within the Paradigms of Creativity theme, she organized a highly successful symposium and exhibition entitled ‘Aromatic Art (Re)Constructed. In search of lost scents.’ The exhibition was on view at the VU from February to May 2017.

### *Design Research*

Also the cluster’s focus on design research – already established as a cornerstone in 2016 – was further strengthened. Next to the ongoing EU project on “Women’s creativity since the Modern Movement” (MoMoWo) (see annual report 2016) whose VU branch is headed by Dr. Marjan Groot, Ginette Verstraete, Professor of Comparative Art and Media at the VU, together with Dr. David Hamers from the Design Academy in Eindhoven, was awarded a prestigious NWO Smart Culture grant. Together with Studio Ester van de Wiel they address two of the most pressing issues our society is facing: social participation and a circular economy. In this three year long project, they will research how the experimental and innovative capacities of the design practice can help re-frame and re-make flows of residual material into resources, what roles the various participants can take in this process, and how their participation can inform the design practice, education, and research.

### *Curatorial Studies*

2017 was also a very active year concerning both the cluster’s cooperation with museums and the critical scrutiny of the latter’s role in ‘the creative complex’. In January, a conference on ‘Labyrinthian exhibitions’ was organized together with the Stedelijk Museums Amsterdam. Next to being actively involved as speakers and moderators during the main

conference, the cluster, represented by Angela Bartholomew and Katja Kwastek, organized a separate young researchers symposium, dedicated to “Artistic subversions: setting the conditions of display”. 12 young international researchers came to the VU to reflect various artistic practices of institutional critique. Many contributions of the symposium were published later in the year as a double issue of the VU affiliated journal *Kunstlicht*, under the titles ‘Breaking the Frame, Subversion from Within’ and ‘Claiming Space, Subversion by Incursion’. In March, in the context of the NWO Museumbeurs granted to Jelle Bouwhuis (Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam) under supervision of Katja Kwastek, a seminar took place at the VU dedicated to the global art museum under the title “Doing justice”. Dutch and international curators and scholars from different disciplines set out to discuss the challenges of “Museums of Modern and Contemporary Art Going global”. Later that year, VU lecturer Sven Lütticken, together with Eric de Bruyn from Leiden University, organized a conference day in the context of a weeklong gathering at the Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven. Under the title ‘Future Caucus’ international scholars were invited to present their thoughts on potential (alternative) futures for our society, touching topics such as “The Labour Of The Future, The Future After Labour”, “Speculative Practices”, and “Socialist and Afro-Futures (on Film)”. A book publication is intended.

The both theoretical and practical engagement with practices of curating and collecting is far from being restricted to issues of curating contemporary culture. In the context of the *Aspasia* project ‘The Artistic Taste of Nations’ (dedicated to researching early modern classifications of art according to national school) of Ingrid Vermeulen, associate professor of Early Modern Art History, preparations have started for an expert meeting, conference and proceedings. Huigen Leeftang, curator of prints at the Rijksmuseum, will contribute to these with the first results from his PhD-project on the art collections of Pieter Cornelis Baron van Leyden (1717-1788). Also the involvement of lecturer

Comparative Art & Media Ivo Blom in the award winning exhibition on 19<sup>th</sup> century painter Alma Tadema (Fries Museum Leeuwarden, 2016) continued in 2017. Accompanying the UK presentation of the exhibition at Leighton House Ivo Blom initiated what became the conference ‘Alma-Tadema: Antiquity at Home and on Screen’ (Paul Mellon Foundation/ Birkbeck University, October 19-21, 2017).

### *New members and evolving themes*

A further, evolving research topic of the cluster is the interrelations of visual and literary culture, which has been enforced by Dr. Erin La Cour, a specialist on Graphic Novels. As an example, she gave a keynote entitled “Behind the Mask: Comics’ Fantastical Spaces as Escape,” at the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Dutch Psychoanalytic Society.

2017 also saw the inaugural lectures of two new endowed professors related to the cluster’s activities: Alec Badenoch, professor of Transnational Media attached to the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision gave his lecture with the title “Found in translation: transnational media and the national archive”, and Wayne Modest, professor of Material Culture and Critical Heritage Studies and Head of the Research Center for Material Culture, gave a lecture entitled “Pressing matter: Reckoning with colonial heritage”

### *Key Publications*

- Blom, I., 2017: ‘Unaffectedness and Rare Eurythmics: Carl Koch, Jean Renoir, Luchino Visconti and the Production of *Tosca* (1939/41)’, in: *The Italianist. Film*, 37, 2, 2017, pp. 149-175.
- Boter, B., 2017: ‘First Female Travel Journalist Meets First Lady: Mary Pos and Eleanor Roosevelt Speak on Women’s Roles and Intercultural Understanding.’, in : *Eleanor Roosevelt and Diplomacy in the Public*

*Interest*, special issue of *European Journal of American Studies* (online), vol. 12, no. 1, 2017. Document 3. URL : <http://ejas.revues.org/11908> ; DOI : 10.4000/ejas.11908.

- Gimeno Martínez, J., & K. Serulus, 2017: 'For a History of Modern Design in Belgium', in: Gimeno Martínez, J. & K. Serulus, K. (Eds.), *Panorama: A History of Modern Design in Belgium*. Brussels: CFC. pp. 18-61.
- Kwastek, K., 2017: 'Documenting interaction', in: Giannachi, G. & J. Westerman (Eds.). *Histories of Performance Documentation: Museum, Artistic, and Scholarly Practices*. Oxon: Routledge, p. 132-148.
- Lütticken, S., 2017: *Cultural Revolution, Aesthetic Practice after Autonomy*. Sternberg Press.
- Meuwissen, D., 2017: 'Attributing the Berlin Sketchbook to the Amsterdam painter and printmaker Cornelis Anthonisz (ca. 1505-1558)'. *Simiolus*, in: *Netherlands Quarterly for the History of Art*. 39, 1-2, pp. 15-43.
- Oostdijk, D., 2017: 'Poetry and Its Others: News, Prayer, Song, and the Dialogue of Genres', In: *English Studies*. 98, 4, p p. 444-445.
- Steenbergh, K., 2017: 'Weeping verse: Jasper Heywood's translation of Seneca's Troades (1559) and the politics of vicarious compassion', in: *Renaissance Studies*. 31, 5, pp. 690-706.
- Vermeulen, I., 2017: 'Pierre-Jean Mariette, enlightened art connoisseur and scholar of art history. Mariette and the Science of the Connoisseur in Eighteenth-Century Europe by Kristen Smentek, Farnham: Ashgate, 2014', in: *Journal of Art Historiography*, June, pp. 1-10.

### Highlighted:

Lütticken, S., 2017: *Cultural Revolution, Aesthetic Practice after Autonomy*. Sternberg Press.

In this collection of essays, art historian and critic Sven Lütticken focuses on aesthetic practice in a rapidly expanding cultural sphere. He analyzes its transformation by the capitalist cultural revolution, whose reshaping of art's autonomy has wrought a field of afters and posts. In a present moment teeming with erosions — where even history and the human are called into question — *Cultural Revolution: Aesthetic Practice after Autonomy* reconsiders these changing values, for relegating such notions safely to the past betrays their possibilities for potential today.

Lütticken discusses practices that range from Black Mask to Subversive Aktion, from Krautonomy to Occupy, from the Wet Dream Film Festival in the early 1970s to Jonas Staal's recently established New World Academy. Within these pages Scarlett Johansson meets Paul Chan, Walid Raad, and Hito Steyerl, and Dr. Zira from *Planet of the Apes* mingles with the likes of Paul Lafargue and Alexandre Kojève.

### Research cluster 4: Knowledge Formation and its History

(coordinator prof. René van Woudenberg)

Research in this cluster is focused on the topic of knowledge: how it is acquired, what its sources are, how genuine sources of knowledge can be distinguished from spurious ones, how different disciplines relate to each other (and to the world), the reliability of knowledge producing institutions like universities and the legal system, how their reliability can be optimized, what epistemic responsibilities universities have, how democracy depends on the free acquisition of knowledge, what responsible research consists in, how to respond to the alleged 'replication crisis' in certain areas of research, the relation between knowledge and ethical responsibility.

Knowledge formation goes on in all fields of learning, and hence this is an interdisciplinary cluster *par excellence*. Therefore, this cluster features philosophers, theologians, and

historians that collaborate with legal scholars, political scientists, ethicists, econometricists and scientists.

This cluster is the home of the following interdisciplinary projects:

- **The Epistemic Responsibilities of the University.** This project delineates the intellectual virtues that universities should aim to uphold, such as: open-mindedness, carefulness, intellectual honesty and tenacity, epistemic courage, epistemic humility and how, in teaching and research, universities can do that. ([www.abrahamkuypercenter.nl](http://www.abrahamkuypercenter.nl))
- **Amsterdam Research Climate.** This project studies the influence of the research climate in the four Amsterdam academic institutions (VU Amsterdam, University of Amsterdam, VUMC and AMC) on responsible conduct of research, by means of a survey on Organizational Research Climate, and the Publication Pressure Questionnaire. ([www.amsterdamresearchclimate.nl](http://www.amsterdamresearchclimate.nl))
- **Cognitive Science of Religion (CSR)** is a burgeoning field, which aims to understand the cognitive processes that underlie and shape religious belief formation and religious practices. This project investigates the epistemic status of CSR theories, as well as the cogency of many claimed entailments.
- **Freedom, self-knowledge, science, and the law:** this cluster of projects traces how findings from neuroscience should impact common-sense views about freedom and self-knowledge, as well as how it should impact standard legal assumptions and practices.
- **The Humanities** cover a vast field of approaches, methods, aims and objects. One resurging question is whether the humanities are capable of providing knowledge, and understanding, and another how the humanities relate to the sciences. This projects aims to establish 1) that the humanities are capable of providing knowledge, 2) that interpretation can be a source of knowledge, 3) that compared with

the sciences, the humanities have their own objects of study, their own aims, and their own methods.

- **Democracy and disagreement.** This project studies how democracies can deal with so-called forms of “deep disagreements”, i.e. cognitive disagreements about values, and perhaps even facts—and also whether democracies can survive deep disagreements.
- **Markets and market-based interactions.** This cluster of projects studies markets, more specifically, it studies the relation of markets and values, as well as the relation between markets and exploitation.
- **Histories of knowledge formation.** This cluster of project studies the history of various academic disciplines and traces how disciplines have changed over time. It also studies how conceptions of knowledge have changed over time. ([www.stevincentre.com](http://www.stevincentre.com))
- **Moral Responsibility and Knowledge.** This cluster of projects analyzes under what conditions ignorance can excuse people for doing morally wrong acts.
- **Vagueness and Gradability.** This cluster of projects concerns a number of logical and philosophical puzzles that have to do with vagueness, and the fact that certain things (mass, length, intelligence, etc.) comes in degrees, whereas other don't.
- **Epistemology and Religious Diversity.** This project takes up questions about religious truth claims and tolerance.

### Valorization

- This programme is hosts a number of grants from NWO, TWCF, and other granting agencies.
- The members of this programme gave well over 150 talks and conference presentations and also a number of appearances in the popular media.

## Key publications

- Bouter, L.M., 2017: 'Fostering responsible research practices is a shared responsibility of multiple stakeholders.. in: *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* (in press).
- Douven, I. & L. Decock, 2017: 'What verities may be, in: *Mind*, 126, pp. 386-428.
- Rik Peels. (2017). *Responsible Belief: A Theory in Ethics and Epistemology* (New York: Oxford University Press)
- Regt, H.W. de, & V. Gijsbers., 2017: 'How false theories can yield genuine understanding', in: Grimm, S., C. Baumberger & S. Ammon (Eds.), *Explaining Understanding: New Perspectives from Epistemology and Philosophy of Science*. Oxford: Routledge. pp. 50-75.
- Woudenberg, R. van & J. de Ridder, 2017: 'Design Hypotheses Behave Like Skeptical Hypotheses or: Why We Cannot Know the Falsity of Design Hypotheses', in: *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 7.2 , pp. 69-90.
- Robichaud, P. & J. W. Wieland, 2017: 'A Puzzle Concerning Blame Transfer', in: *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*.

## Research Centres

### Stevin Centre

A common research theme of the Stevin Centre is Knowledge practices and normativity within their historical context. This theme includes normative and philosophical as well as religious and legal aspects. In this approach the concept of 'science' is problematized and the historical development of knowledge and knowledge practices are the object of study. Historians have become aware that knowledge is more than scientific knowledge; it can be intellectual, rational, artisanal, intuitive, sensory, religious, ideological etc. It has been realized that views of what knowledge is or should be, and of the role it should play in society are different in different places and at different times and are normative in character.

Knowledge practices can be found among all kinds of intellectual, social and religious groups and in many different domains: from law, religion, statistics and education theory to technology or art. Questions can be asked about the production, transmission, circulation, appropriation and consumption of knowledge. These processes are influenced by views of what counts as a good explanation and at various levels normativity thus plays an inextricable role.

### Abraham Kuyper Center for Science and the Big Questions

The aim of this Center is to take on a number of so-called Big Questions that all too often have disappeared from the agenda of the university, as they are questions that don't seem to be answerable by more, or more specialized, scientific research. Yet these Questions arise anew in every student generation. These Questions are the 'ultimate' ones, about meaning, freedom, value, God, life after death etc. The aim of the Center is to study these Questions, to connect them with scientific research, and to do so in a way that is sensitive to what animated the founder of the VU, after who the Center is named.

### Environmental Humanities Center

The Environmental Humanities Center facilitates interdisciplinary approaches to the relation between culture and the environment in teaching as well as research. The board consists of four researchers and four students from different disciplinary backgrounds. Next to being embedded within CLUE+ it also work closely together with the Faculty of Humanity's Graduate School in providing a platform for a new generation of researchers in the environmental humanities. The center has a newsletter with currently 222 subscribers, and regularly organizes cross-disciplinary events to bring together scholars from different disciplines and artists and practitioners



for discussions on specific topics. Major events in 2017 were dedicated to waste (January, including an excursion to the Amsterdam Waste Management Site), climate change ('climate weeks' in March with a series of events), non-human animals (June), and nuclear waste ('nuclear waste weeks' in October, with excursion to a nuclear waste site and exhibition in Belgium). Next to this the center organized special lectures on climate engineering (Christopher Preston), the anthropocene (Erle Ellis), and environmental art and activism (T. J. Demos), with the latter attracting an audience of ca. 400 people.

### CLUE+ conference on “Resonances of the Work of Judith Butler”

On April 5-7, 2017, CLUE+ organized the international conference “Critical Theory in the Humanities: Resonances of the Work of Judith Butler”. The conference took the work of the famous American philosopher Judith Butler as a stepping stone to discuss how humanities and social sciences, but also law and theology, can contribute to key questions of humankind and pressing societal issues in offering critical reflection. That this concept was of interest to the broader international scientific community was proven by the overwhelming response to the call for paper issued, with more than 350 entries, the immediate positive response of many highly established scholars (including Judith Butler herself and Achille Mbembe) to give a keynote, and the registration of more than 500 participants for the conference. The conference was opened by the rector magnificus of the VU Amsterdam, Vinod Subramaniam, and closed with a conversation of Judith Butler with Monique David-Ménard (Professor of Philosophy and Practicing Psychoanalyst, Paris), followed by a performance by German artist Johannes Paul Raether at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam.

Four panel sessions, each with four to five parallel panels, were devoted to topics such as “Bodies Acting in Concert,” “The Limits of the Nation State,” “Queer Performativity,” “Public

Assembly,” “Performativity and Journalism,” and many more. In these sessions, sixty panelists from all over the world engaged in interdisciplinary discussions, as each panel had consciously been arranged to bridge academic disciplines.

### 3. SWOT-analysis

See attachment.

### 4. Looking into the near future

For the following years, in terms of policy, content and institutional development, in essence the institute will elaborate on the targets set out in its recent policy plan (CLUE+ Policy Plan 2016-2020). These targets are:

- Strengthening interdisciplinarity through focused research programmes;
- Anchoring in society (individual, local, national, global);
- Quality control and development;
- International collaboration;
- A sustainable organization.

In the Policy Plan, these targets are coupled to ambitions, and strategies. Amongst the targets, the fostering of interdisciplinarity is key; to a certain degree, interdisciplinary initiatives have popped up spontaneously as a result of the network-like structure of CLUE+, which facilitates close and rapid communication between the various research groups. In the upcoming years, these communication channels will be further intensified, with the aim of working towards joint research strategies on overarching themes. The four programme themes are leading in this. For instance, in the cluster of Landscape and Heritage researchers from the Faculties of Humanities (Archaeology, History, Landscape History) Economics and Business Administration (notably the Spatial Information Laboratory) and Social Sciences (Business Administration) collaborate. CLUE+ researchers can rightfully claim to be agenda setting in this field, and it is our ambition to continue along these lines, also in the other programmes.

Building on and extending the networks and themes that have been developed so far, CLUE+ researchers aim to submit several funding applications for the NWO Innovational Research Incentive Scheme, the NWO Free Competition Humanities and the NWO PhDs in the Humanities, as well as for calls of the European Union (JPI, COST, Horizon2020) in 2018 and 2019. Seminars organized by this cluster will be instrumental in preparing for the criteria of the calls. The research leaders will facilitate these initiatives through discussion workshops, consortium building meetings and conferences.

To guarantee the continuation of this policy, talent development will be closely monitored along the lines set out for CLUE+ in general. Accordingly, summer schools and honours classes are in our focus, as incubators of talent. Junior researchers will also be stimulated to engage prominently in the various research groups, amongst others with a CLUE+ Early Career Fund and by inviting them to organize workshops, (international) consortium meetings and to write competitive research proposals.

## Quantitative section

### Staff (table 1)

In 2017 the number of staff of the institute hasn't changed significantly with respect to the year before, as is evident from table 1. As far as the PhD researchers is concerned, two main categories can be recognized. The first category is on the pay roll of VU Amsterdam and is therefore under the condition of employment of the VU Amsterdam. The second category does

not have a labor relation to the VU Amsterdam, and although of equal importance to the first mentioned category, the amount of fte is not given.

As far as the support staff of CLUE+ is concerned, it is composed of the Director, the Policy Officer and a student assistant.

**Table 1. Research Staff**

Research unit	2015		2016		2017	
	No.	FTE	No.	FTE	No.	FTE
Scientific staff (tenured staff)	163	39,58	175	41,02	178	39,52
Post-docs	27	14,9	31	13,45	33	18,46
PhD students	46	34,81	53	37,21	61	38,23
Contract PhD students	207	0	221	0	385	0
<b>Total research staff</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>90,18</b>
Support staff	2	0,9	3	1,3	3	1,3
CLUE+ fellows	0	0	2	0	3	0
<b>Total staff</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,3</b>

## Research output (table 2)

CLUE+ links researchers from the humanities, social sciences, law and the sciences. These domains have developed their own scientific output strategies; thus, in the Humanities traditionally there is a strong emphasis on the production of monographs and book chapters,

whilst in Economics and Science, for instance, co-authored and compact publications in peer reviewed journals are a prerequisite to survive. However, these differences between domains are becoming smaller and smaller.

**Table 2. Research Output**

	2015	2016	2017
Book	17	14	42
Refereed article	138	172	158
Non-refereed article	25	24	19
Book chapters	96	122	126
PhD theses	19	25	22
Conference paper	63	49	17
Professional publication	99	107	132
Publications aimed at the general public	120	132	76
Other research output	49	39	134
<b>Total research output</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>726</b>

\*Please note: the research output of 2017 can deviate from the other years due to the introduction of a new research portal called Pure. Currently, we are investigating the exact influence of this change in portal.

## Funding (table 3)

A difference is made between the direct funding and the expenditure of the supporting office of CLUE and all other income (research grants,

etc.) that has been raised with the support of CLUE. This income is administered by the faculties that participate in CLUE+.

**Table 3. Funding**

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Research unit</b>			
<i>Funding:</i>			
Direct funding <sup>(1)</sup>	€ 223	€ 223	€ 223
Research grants <sup>(2)</sup>	€ 1,412	€ 2.496	€ 2.031
Contract research <sup>(3)</sup>	€ 825	€ 1,136	€ 2,074
Other <sup>(4)</sup>	€ 0	€ 1,003	€ 700
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>€ 2.460</b>	<b>€ 4.858</b>	<b>€ 5.028</b>
<i>Expenditure:</i>			
Personnel costs	€ 60	€ 93	€ 97
Other costs	€ 163	€ 130	€ 126
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>€ 223</b>	<b>€ 223</b>	<b>€ 223</b>

1 Direct funding (basis financiering / lump-sum budget).

2 Research grants obtained in national scientific competition (e.g. grants from NWO and the KNAW)

3 Research contracts for specific research projects obtained from external organizations, such as industry, government ministries, European organizations and charitable organizations.

4 Funds that do not fit into the other categories.

A difference is made between the direct funding and the expenditure of the supporting office of CLUE and all other income (research grants, etc.) that has been raised with the support of CLUE. This income is administered by the faculties that participate in CLUE.

